Friday, October 17, 2025 No 287 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Indians sweat it out in Perth

ODI series: Rohit, Kohli hit the ground running

Page 16

'Modi agreed to stop Russian oil imports'

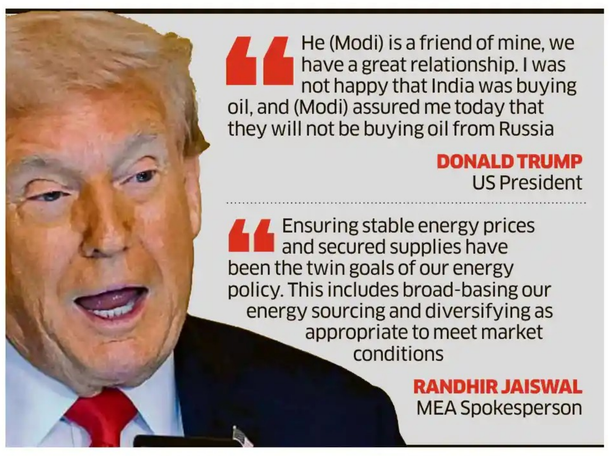
Trump makes explosive claim; MEA denies there was any call

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him to stop India's oil imports from Russia has come as the latest irritant in the strained ties between the two countries even as New Delhi on Thursday rejected Trump's claim that he had a phone call with Modi on Wednesday.

Speaking to journalists, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal categorically denied that the two leaders spoke on Wednesday. "As per my information, there was no phone conversation between PM Modi and President Trump yesterday (Wednesday)," he said, adding that the last phone conversation between Modi and Trump was on October 9.

Jaiswal, however, did not clarify if India had conveyed any message to the US through any other means about reducing its oil imports from Russia.



> He (Modi) is a friend of mine, we have a great relationship. I was not happy that India was buying oil, and (Modi) assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> US President

> Ensuring stable energy prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy. This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA Spokesperson

He asserted that India's import policies are entirely guided by the objective of safeguarding the interests of consumers in the country.

Trump's latest claim came amid the stress in bilateral relations between New Delhi and Washington.

"I was not happy that India was buying oil, and (Modi) assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia," the US president told journalists at the White House.

▸ MEA-Trump, Page 6

UK sanctions Guj refinery

The UK has ramped up pressure on India to cut down its oil imports from Russia. Days after PM Modi hosted his UK counterpart Keir Starmer, London has imposed sanctions on a refinery in Gujarat partly owned by Russia's Rosneft. Page 11

'Frightened of Trump': Cong needles PM

LoP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Modi, claiming he was "frightened of Trump" after the latter's claim of India agreeing to end Russian crude purchase. Page 11

Govt order bans 'trespassing' on public places; may hit RSS

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a move expected to hit the Rashtriya Swayaksevak Sangh's (RSS) daily activities, the state Cabinet decided on Thursday to issue a "detailed" Government Order (GO) preventing "trespassing" on public places by private institutions and organisations.

The Hindutva outfit holds shakhas and camps each day, usually in state-owned public grounds.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "The government has decided to issue a GO to prevent trespassing and regulate the use of public properties, including those of educational institutions."

The decision comes in the wake of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where Priyank sought a ban on RSS activities on government premises.

The government said this applies not just to RSS but to all private institutions and organisations "trespassing" (using these places without prior permission) on state-owned land. The RSS, the BJP's ideological parent, was banned in 1948, 1975 and 1992, but the bans were later lifted.

▸ RSS, Page 6

Act against govt staff with RSS links: Priyank

Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking disciplinary action on government employees having links with the RSS.

Details on Page 5A

Man held for abusing Priyank, Page 5A

BMSCE student raped in college washroom

Survivor's junior arrested; incident took place on Oct 10

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A female student at a prominent engineering college in south Bengaluru was allegedly raped by her junior inside a men's washroom on the campus.

The Hanumanthanagar police on Wednesday arrested Jeevan Gowda, 21, a fifth-semester student at BMS College of Engineering in Basavanagudi, on charges of raping the woman, a seventh-semester student. He is currently in judicial custody.

The incident reportedly occurred on October 10, but the FIR was registered on October 15 under BNS Section 64 (punishment for rape).

Police said the woman delayed filing the complaint because she was distressed and scared. She later informed her parents, who then approached the police. A mahazar (reconstruction of the crime scene) was conducted on Thursday, sources said.

According to the FIR, the survivor reached college at 8.55 am and told Jeevan she would meet him in the afternoon to collect some items. Jeevan told her that he wanted to speak to her. During the lunch break, Jeevan repeatedly called her. When she went downstairs to meet him, he allegedly asked her to come up to the seventh floor.

▸ Rape, Page 6

Man kills student in broad daylight in Malleswaram

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 25-year-old man is on the run after allegedly slitting the throat of a college student he had been stalking, in broad daylight in Malleswaram on Thursday.

The 20-year-old victim's screams drew local residents, who rushed to help, but she died on the spot.

Police identified the deceased as Yamini Priya, a first-year B.Pharm student at a private college in Banashankari.

Senior police officers inspect the crime scene in Malleswaram.

According to the police, the suspect, Vignesh, followed her while she was returning home from college.

▸ Murder, Page 7

Infy adds 8,203 new employees

BENGALURU, DHNS: At a time when a few IT companies are firing employees, Infosys has added 8,203 employees in July-September 2025. As of September 30, 2025, Infosys' total employee headcount stood at 3,31,991. In the first half of this fiscal year (April to September), the company has added 8,413 employees.

The company has also hired 12,000 freshers in H1FY26.

Details on Page 14

Nod for 80k-seat cricket stadium at Anekal

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state Cabinet on Thursday granted "in-principle" approval to constructing an international-level cricket stadium and sports complex at Anekal taluk at a cost of Rs 2,350 crore.

MEGA PROJECT

- Cricket stadium, sports complex to come up on 75 acres of land
- Project at Suryanagar IV Stage to cost of Rs 2,350 crore
- Cricket stadium will have a seating capacity of 80,000
- Complex will include facilities for 24 different indoor, outdoor sports

Addressing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said: "The Cabinet has provided in-principle approval to a proposal by the Housing Department to construct an international-level cricket stadium and sports complex on 75 acres of land at Suryanagar IV Stage Extension, Indlavadi village, Bengaluru Urban, at a cost of Rs 2,350 crore. We have directed the department concerned to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) and viability."

Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan told reporters after the Cabinet meet: "The cricket stadium will have a capacity of 80,000, and the complex will include facilities for 24 indoor and outdoor sports, as well as an auditorium with 3,000 seats."

▸ Stadium, Page 6

'Preferred jail over DyCM post'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Brandishing his loyalty to Congress, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has claimed that he preferred going to jail by rejecting a plum post - akin to the one he holds now - in exchange for helping the BJP to power in 2019. The Opposition BJP viewed Shivakumar's statement as a threat to the Congress high command amid his power struggle with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Page 5B

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Zepto co-founder joins growing chorus against city's traffic chaos

Corporate community calls for a clearer roadmap for improved infrastructure

BENGALURU, DHNS

Vehicles inch forward as traffic crawls along the Outer Ring Road near Marathahalli. DH FILE PHOTO

The city's crumbling infrastructure and worsening traffic congestion have once again drawn sharp criticism from the city's corporate leaders, many of whom have voiced their frustration on social media.

The latest comment came from Zepto co-founder Aadit Palicha, who described his commute to the airport as "the most painful thing" he has to do once or twice a month.

"The biggest problem that I have in my life is the commute whenever I need to take a flight from where I stay in Bangalore to the airport," he said during a podcast. The corporate community, including the IT Companies and Industries Association, has urged the Karnataka government to act swiftly and promptly, and provide a clear roadmap for improving roads, metro connectivity, and public utilities.

AADIT PALICHA
Co-founder, Zepto

"The biggest problem that I have in my life is the commute whenever I need to take a flight from where I stay in Bangalore to the airport.

Many employees, losing productive hours in traffic, have renewed their demand for a state-supported Work from Home (WFH) policy to reduce congestion.

Panathur Road to reopen on October 24

Commuters struggling with heavy traffic on the Varthur–Marathahalli Road and Vibgyor Road may get relief soon, as Panathur Road is set to reopen next Friday (October 24).

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) acknowledged that the congestion was caused by the temporary closure of Panathur Road for white-topping work.

A BTP advisory stated: "Since Panathur Road is closed, there is a lot of traffic on the Varthur–Marathahalli Road and Vibgyor Road. Panathur Road will be opened for public use from next Friday. This should ease traffic on the Varthur–Marathahalli stretch and also reduce congestion on the ORR, too."

Until then, the BTP has advised commuters to plan their travel considering possible delays on alternate routes.

The closure has caused major inconvenience for those using the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the Varthur–Marathahalli tech corridor.

The announcement of the Panathur Road reopening has been welcomed by several officegoers and the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), which has long sought better planning and execution of civic works to minimise daily commuter hardship.

#SaveLalBagh campaign gains momentum as govt proceeds with tunnel project

Tunnelling under Lalbagh's heritage rock could destabilise the area, expert warns

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

A section of Lalbagh has been marked for the Greater Bengaluru Authority's proposed tunnel road project. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

The government's proposed underground tunnel project has triggered growing opposition from citizens and environmental activists, with the #SaveLalBagh campaign gaining traction across Bengaluru.

Activists call the project an "ecological and economic disaster" and demand that the government adopt a decentralised approach to development. They argue that encouraging businesses to move to other cities in Karnataka, instead of concentrating growth in Bengaluru, would ease congestion and reduce pressure on the city's limited green spaces.

Thanmaya BP, an IT consultant and civic activist, said the tunnel road "should not be executed in any way, shape, or form" and described it as an unviable solution to the city's traffic woes. He said the funds would be better utilised to improve public transport by expanding the BMTC's fleet and increasing metro connectivity.

"The government has not even provided proper roads; instead, it plans to dig under them," Thanmaya said. He also questioned the geological feasibility of the project, citing Bengaluru's underground aquifers that supply much of the city's water.

RACHANA RAVIKIRAN
Activist

"As we have seen in developed countries, more roads, flyovers or tunnels only invite more vehicles. Improving public transport is the light we're seeking at the end of the tunnel.

Dr Yellappa Reddy, chairman of the Lalbagh–Cubbon Park Committee and former secretary of the Department of Ecology and Environment, warned the tunnel road project could "have a significant impact on the ecology".

He explained that tunnelling under Lalbagh's heritage rock could destabilise the area. "There is a 100% chance the lake will rupture due to the work, and water will rush into Chandapura Road, Chandapura Garden, and finally end up at Nimhans," he said.

Reddy added that blasting and venting during tunnelling would release dust and debris, kill beneficial bacteria, and degrade the park's air quality. He also questioned whether any risk assessment or expert consultation had been conducted with institutions such as the Rock Research Institute or IISc.

Environmental activist Alexander James said the project was "not feasible for Bengaluru", noting that metro tunnelling itself took two years.

Citizens' forum threatens to stop paying taxes over poor infra

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Individual Taxpayers Forum, Bengaluru, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, threatening to stop paying property tax until the government improves the city's infrastructure.

In its letter, the forum urged the chief minister to direct the BBMP and GBA "not to collect property taxes" as basic public infrastructure had not been provided to the public. Residents described the work on roads, white-topping, and drainage in the Varthur–Balagere–Panathur area as "unscientific, half-measured and incomplete".

Signed by 60 people, the letter stated that taxpayers and their families were "suffering immensely because of poor civic infrastructure by the municipal authorities (BBMP, GBA)".

It said flooding continued to occur, as seen on October 10 and 11, due to a poorly connected stormwater drainage network that should channel rainwater into Varthur Lake.

The residents pointed out that despite the chief minister's visit on September 27, the municipality had ignored his instructions.

"Officials within the municipal bodies have once again overlooked proper planning and resorted to shortcuts without taking any action," the letter said.

The forum listed issues such as diversion of stormwater into manholes that cannot handle the volume of water, uncontrolled sewage inflow into Varthur Lake, encroachments blocking stormwater channels, and inadequate flood mitigation measures.

"Instead of completing the drainage network, essential for road stability, authorities have hastily begun filling potholes and white-topping roads in the Varthur–Balagere–Panathur area," it added. The forum urged the chief minister to order a scientific audit of the ongoing drainage and road works in the affected localities.

FESTIVAL HUSTLE

From Gandhi Bazaar to Sanjaynagar, shoppers light up Bengaluru's streets, choosing lamps and lanterns to welcome the festival of lights. Deepavali will be celebrated on October 20. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

BDA recovers Rs 25-cr property

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Thursday recovered encroached properties in JP Nagar 9th Phase and Banashankari 3rd Stage with help of the local police. The properties are worth over Rs 25 crore.

The BDA Task Force removed constructions in Survey No 90/2 of Alahalli village, Uttarahalli hobli. The recovered property is valued at Rs 20.10 crore.

The team also razed structures in Survey No 94/1 of Katriguppe village, Uttarahalli, reclaiming 2,108 sqft of land worth Rs 4.25 crore.

947 modified silencers seized in weeklong drive

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) seized 947 modified silencers and registered 3,674 cases for shrill horns during a weeklong, citywide special drive, conducted from October 9 to 15. Modified silencers were among the major traffic violations reported in the city last year, according to a BTP report released earlier this year.

Bengaluru South RTO shifted

BENGALURU, DHNS: The office of the Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Bengaluru Urban District and Regional Transport Office, Bengaluru South (KA-05), has been shifted to Survey No 64/1, Anjanapura, Uttarahalli hobli, JP Nagar, 9th Phase, Bengaluru-560108, and is now open to the public.

100 major roads to get facelift

BENGALURU, DHNS

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Thursday directed officials to identify 100 major roads across the city for comprehensive development.

Ten roads will be selected in each of the city's 10 zones.

At a review meeting on road maintenance and cleanliness, attended by engineers and representatives from related departments, Rao emphasised incorporating citizen feedback to address issues such as potholes, footpath quality, and garbage dumping. Responsibilities have been assigned to the respective chief engineers.

Maheshwar Rao

He instructed agencies such as the BWSSB and Bescom to obtain GBA approval before beginning any road work to prevent damage to newly repaired roads.

The chief engineer (projects) will chair weekly review meetings, initially focusing on temporary measures and later, on long-term solutions. Priority will be given to repairing potholes along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and other key stretches.

Ongoing white-topping projects must be properly maintained to ensure smooth traffic flow, and contractors will be held responsible for the upkeep. The installation of drainage pipes along flyovers has also been mandated to prevent water damage to roads.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) will coordinate intensive cleaning drives along the ORR.

The government has signed an agreement with the Gas Authority of India Limited. PHOTO: DYCM OFFICE

GAIL to generate gas from 500 tonnes of wet waste: DyCM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said the state government has signed an agreement with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to generate gas from 500 tonnes of wet waste in Bengaluru.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will supply the waste, while GAIL will set up a Rs 123-crore unit for the project.

"The state government has already allotted land for the unit. This is the first such initiative in Bengaluru, and we are open to signing more agreements," Shivakumar said, adding that the project would help ease the city's waste disposal problem.

The unit is expected to come up at the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) plant in Kudlu.

SDA dies; wife blames municipal members

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tension prevailed at the Vijayapura Town Municipal Council on Bengaluru's northern outskirts on Thursday following the death of a Second Division Assistant (SDA), allegedly due to harassment by municipal members.

Pavan R Joshi (38) reportedly died of a brain stroke on Wednesday.

Enraged relatives placed his body in front of the municipal office in Devanahalli taluk and staged a protest demanding the arrest of municipal member, Hanifullah.

Protesters alleged that Hanifullah had harassed Joshi and pressured him to manipulate accounts, which led to his death.

The protest brought work at the municipal office to a halt, with agitators blocking entry and exit points and thrashing a photograph of Hanifullah with slippers.

R Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara to order a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the incident. Following a complaint from Ananya Joshi, the deceased's wife, Vijayapura police have booked Hanifullah, and municipal members JN Srinivas and Muniraju.

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Murder-accused surgeon denies administering medicine to wife

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A city-based surgeon, accused of murdering his dermatologist wife, has denied administering any medicine to her, let alone a controlled anaesthetic like propofol, multiple sources told *DH*.

The Marathahalli police on Tuesday arrested Dr Mahendra Reddy GS, 31, for allegedly murdering his wife, Dr Kruthika M Reddy (29).

Dr Mahendra Reddy GS

The case, which resurfaced six months after Kruthika's death in April 2025, gained momentum after forensic analysis revealed traces of propofol in her organs.

Kruthika's father alleged that between April 21 and April 24, Reddy administered "medicine" to her through multiple doses using an IV cannula, which is now suspected to have been propofol. He said Kruthika had been complaining of gastric discomfort at the time.

Mahendra was remanded to police custody for nine days on Wednesday. Investigators said he has been largely uncooperative.

"He is not opening up and cooperating with the investigators. He is a bit stubborn. In fact, he is now claiming that he did not administer the drug," a senior police source said. "The motive is yet to be clear and how and where he accessed the drug."

Police plan to confront Mahendra with the material and technical evidence they have gathered. The Scene of Crime (SOCO) team has already recovered an IV cannula set, injections, and other medical items allegedly used in the crime.

Kruthika's father, K Munireddy, the complainant, told police they had recently learnt about Mahendra's alleged relationship with another woman. The FIR also stated that Mahendra had demanded that Munireddy build a hospital for him.

"Along with the interrogation, teams are also gathering technical evidence, including call records, travel history and other details that will aid the probe. Further custody will be sought, if he does not cooperate during the nine days," another police source said.

Traffic cop slaps motorcyclist; suspended

BENGALURU, DHNS: A constable attached to the Madiwala traffic police station in southern Bengaluru has been suspended after he was caught on camera slapping a motorcyclist during duty hours.

The incident came to light after passersby recorded the altercation and shared the video on X (formerly Twitter).

Gopal M Byakod, DCP (South, Traffic), said, "Accountability and respect go hand in hand. Action has been taken against the staff for misbehaviour."

He confirmed that the constable, Mallikarjuna Theli, was suspended following an inquiry.

October 13 incident

The incident occurred on October 13, when the rider allegedly entered a one-way road near Madiwala. Two traffic policemen stopped him for the violation.

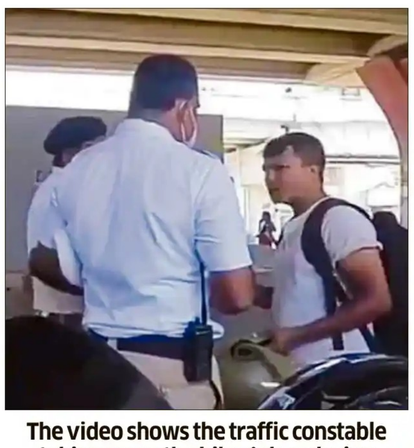
According to the police, the rider argued with them, prompting the constable to slap him. A fine of Rs 500 was later collected for the offence.

A day later, the video surfaced online showing the constable taking away the motorcyclist's keys and threatening to call the Hoysala patrol police.

The clip drew widespread criticism, with many demanding stricter action against the officer.

One user wrote, "He should be made to issue a public apology. We all know how suspensions work in India — nothing changes."

Another said, "What will suspension do? He'll be reinstated soon. He should be booked for assault."



The video shows the traffic constable taking away the biker's key during the altercation near Madiwala.

Former corporator alleges Rs 200-cr govt land grab in South Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: A complaint has been filed before the Bengaluru Urban district administration, alleging a Rs 200-crore land scam in which ownership of a government property was fraudulently transferred to private parties.

Former BJP corporator NR Ramesh, who filed the complaint, said the land in question — categorised as 'A' and 'B' khata — is located in Manavarthe Kaval, Uttarahalli, and spans about eight acres.

He alleged that senior revenue officials from Bengaluru South taluk colluded with private persons to usurp the government property. The scam reportedly involved falsified land records, illegal conversions, and fraudulent registration of land that was once a stone quarry.

Despite clear government documentation establishing the land's public ownership, officials allegedly manipulated records to show private ownership, Ramesh told reporters before submitting the complaint. He urged the administration to reclaim the land and initiate strict legal action against the officials and land grabbers involved.

A copy of the complaint has also been submitted to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and senior department officers.

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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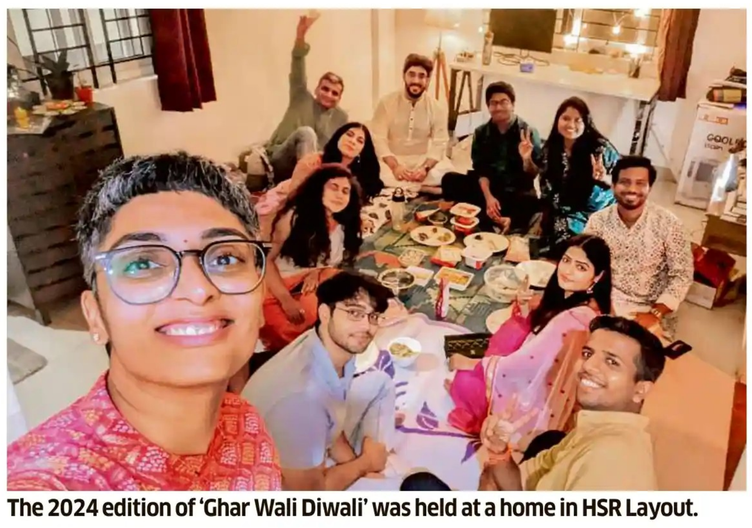
Festive meetups for the homesick

These gatherings will feature games, music, films and food

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE


The 2024 edition of 'Ghar Wali Diwali' was held at a home in HSR Layout.

Icebreakers and games

Radhika Mohta and Kumud Gupta are co-hosting a Deepavali get-together at the latter's home in HSR Layout. The evening will feature icebreaker activities, games, and snacks. They will also light diyas and sparklers. The gathering, called 'Ghar Wali Diwali', was started a few years ago by Radhika. The intent is to welcome those who can't go home for the festival because of various reasons. Radhika, a matchmaker and relationship coach, adds that the meetup also draws people from other faiths who are "culturally curious".

October 20, 6.45 pm. Entry free. Contact @radhika_cheerleader on Instagram.

VR tour of India

Chaarana Labs, a studio specialising in immersive media, is giving their festive meetup a tech twist. They are opening their HSR Layout studio to visitors to watch virtual reality films they have created, showcasing Indian states and their culture, nature, and history. The experience centres around Apple Vision Pro, a mixed-reality headset not yet launched in India. Visitors can watch the film in the studio's gardens, and other outdoor spaces at their own pace, says cofounder Sairam Sagiraju. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

October 18-19, 10 am to 8 pm. Entry free. Contact 99866 37587.

Rangoli and mini house

Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC), Yeshwantpur, is hosting its first 'BCC Diwali Party' in response to people seeking celebrations beyond DJ parties. Activities include diya painting, card games, and music sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to create rangoli, gharaunda (miniature house), and greeting cards. The menu features saffron rose sharbat, tamarind cooler, pani puri and chaat, saffron kofta curry, malpua with rabri, and kalakand. "We won't be lighting firecrackers," says co-founder Manisha Vinod.

October 18, 5 pm. Visit @blrcreativecircus on Instagram for tickets.

Food with Bhopali twist

Nostalgia around food and festivals is the highlight of 'Ghar Se Door, Dil Ke Paas Diwali', co-organised by Ekta Singh of Ekta's Gatherings. Chef Farheen is curating a five-course meal at Jugni Kitchen and Bar, Koramangala. It will feature homestyle classics like aloo tuk, aam papad chutney, bread rolls, aloo poori sabzi, chicken do pyaza and khoye ki jalebi. "Since the chef is from Bhopal, the menu has a slight Bhopali twist," says Ekta, who will also moderate the conversation with the guests.

October 17, 7.30 pm. Contact @ektas_gatherings on Instagram before 5 pm.

Grazing table and antakshri

Food is at the heart of the meetup organised by Blr Besties, a community for founders and freelancers. A potluck hosted at a member's house last Deepavali drew 45 people. This year, the gathering moves to Euphoria Studio Kitchen in Jayanagar. A grazing table will take centre stage. The spread will include dhokla, barfi, pani puri and samosas, and also breads, cream cheeses and dips, says Bisma Kazi from the organising team. It's designed as a non-sitdown event so guests can snack while moving around to play games like tambola, antakshri, and poker (minus the gambling). Though called 'Pataka Night', there will be no firecrackers.

October 18, 8 pm. Visit @blrbesties on Instagram for tickets.

Art and plant-based buffet

Analog Club is a phone-free socialising meetup held at The Studio by Copper and Cloves in Domlur. Its 'Diwali Edition' will include games that help participants get to know each other and share childhood memories. "It's a fun way to connect with people over the festive season," says Sarah Edwards, who runs the space. Guests will also receive art supplies to explore the theme of lights. The festive buffet includes starfruit jaljeera, beetroot kebabs, and kaju katli truffles, all plant-based.

October 19, 3 pm. Check @thestudiobycopperandcloves on Instagram.

10 gifting ideas for Deepavali

With Deepavali just around the corner, *Metrolife* has curated gifting ideas for a cross-section of people, from cyclists to music lovers.

Vintage speaker

The Acutas vintage gramophone Bluetooth speaker can be a statement piece for your music room. It is compact and features Bluetooth 5.0 with a six-hour battery life.
Where: bigsmall.in
Price: Rs 2,199

Disco light

The Luditek sound-activated RGB disco ball light comes with seven modes and syncs to different kinds of music. This portable light also includes a remote control.
Where: amazon.in
Price: Rs 1,799

Fondue set

This black ceramic fondue set comes with four fondue sticks and a plate.
Where: pepperfry.com
Price: Rs 2,799

Singing bowl

This portable 3-inch singing bowl comes with a wooden striker and a cushion set. It can be used during meditation or calming rituals.
Where: fnp.com
Price: Rs 1,699

Skipping counter

This Cason smart skipping rope comes fitted with Bluetooth and can be used with an app. The 3 mtr rope can be adjusted as needed and includes an HD LCD display, which shows the number of skips and skipping time.
Where: flipkart.com
Price: Rs 1,995

Bespoke embosser

This paper embosser set from Lemonade India can help you mark the books in your private library. It is customisable and comes with the words 'From the Library of ...'.
Where: lemonadeindia.com
Price: Rs 1,699

Camera straps

These adjustable camera straps are available in floral and animal prints. Made using nylon and leather, they can also be customised with your name.
Where: etsy.com
Price: Rs 2,144 onwards

3-in-1 holder

This three-in-one holder will interest cycling enthusiasts. It can hold a cup, keys, and phone, and comes in various colours.
Where: desertcart.in
Price: Rs 2,571

Book locker

Stash away documents, keys and other valuables in this locker shaped like a hollow dictionary from Shopo Label. It comes with a locker password.
Where: amazon.in
Price: Rs 1,049

Power bank

This 10,000 mAh power bank from Beamie features solar-panel charging. It is useful for those who spend a lot of time outdoors. It comes with four built-in cables, four USB output ports, and an LED flashlight.
Where: geeklane.in
Price: Rs 1,399

POPCORN

Tech tonic

The news is that Narayana Murthy and Sudha Murthy have refused to take the survey being conducted by the state government. Their explanation is that they are looking for no caste benefits, and so the survey is of no relevance to them. Their company, as we all know, is called Infosys, but when the surveyor tries to prise details out of them, it's 'Sorry, no info, sis."

EVENTS

Diya workshop

Artist-architect Vanditha will conduct a workshop on decorating clay diyas on October 19, 11 am, at Ragi Kana, Gottigere. Art supplies will be provided. Call 99726 76426.

Lecture on constitution

Constitutional lawyer and scholar Gautam Bhatia will deliver the annual Vijay Nambisan Lecture on October 18, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. He will talk about the subtle and contested mechanisms that govern India's democracy. To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Craft showcase

An exhibition, titled 'Snugglewalas', is showcasing traditional Indian crafts reimagined with playful design until October 19, 11 am to 5 pm, at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. It features toys, clothing, jewellery and more. RSVP at sabhablr.in.

CITY MIX

Expo on Indian handicrafts, handlooms until Sunday

The Deepavali edition of The Indian Artisans Haat, presented by *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*, is underway at Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road. It showcases Channapatna toys and tableware from Karnataka, dokra art and neem-wood utensils from Odisha, and marble carvings and crockery from Uttar Pradesh. The handloom section features Ilkal and Sambalpuri sarees, chikankari kurtas, and Bagalpuri weaves. Tanjore, Warli, pattachitra, Bhil, and Gond paintings are also on display. *Until October 19, 10 am to 8 pm. Call 98803 31685/98865 0700.*

Workshop on archiving family recipes

Seher Krishna will lead a workshop on documenting one's culinary heritage at Science Gallery Bengaluru, Ballari Road, on October 19, at 11 am. Through guided activities, participants will explore how to use everyday technology to create a multi-layered archive of heirloom recipes. The session aims to help discover how food and cooking can reveal stories of identity and culture. *For registration and other details, visit calorie.scigalleryblr.org.*

Sunday: Six films on mental health

As a prelude to 'Manotsava: National Mental Health Festival', six films will be screened at a day-long event at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on October 19, from 11 am to 7 pm. The event is open to all.

Titled 'Screening the Mind', the event will feature films on themes of loneliness, caregiving, grief and healing, drug addiction and recovery, and self-discovery. The line-up includes Amol Palekar's 'Dhoosar' (Marathi), Megha Havanje's 'Enso' (Kannada), Sukriti Tyagi's 'Swagatam' (Hindi), and Maya Chandra's 'Invisible Chains' (Kannada). Each screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by Nikhil Waiker, founder of The Parallel Cinema Club.

Visitors can also stop by a stall featuring books on mental well-being, and explore an interactive exhibit by the NIMHANS Brain Museum.

The event is organised by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (RNP) in collaboration with NIMHANS and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS). The films are meant to spark dialogue and reflection around mental health, says Natasha Joshi, chief strategy officer at RNP.

The main festival will be held on November 8 and 9 at The Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road. It will feature workshops, and discussion circles on parenting and children's mental health.

To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org. Follow @manotsavaindia on Instagram for updates on the main festival.

Mohiniyattam show on Krishna's life

A troupe from Kalaanjali School of Dance will present a Mohiniyattam performance on the multifaceted persona of Krishna. Titled 'Krishnaarpanam', the show will portray Krishna as the prankster of Gokul, the lover of Radha, the friend to Draupadi, and the mentor of Arjuna. The dance school imparts training in Kalamandalam Kalyanikuttyamma's style of Mohiniyattam.

On October 19, 11 am, at The Medai — The Stage, Koramangala. Tickets online.

The production will depict various traits of Krishna.

Cyclists want network of tracks

If the GBA is to make 'Clean Air Zone' a success, cycling and footpath infrastructure will need a major overhaul, they say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The cycling track near Raj Bhavan is used by pedestrians.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Though the city's cycling community is growing, cycling infrastructure remains abysmal, cyclists tell *Metrolife*.

Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) proposed 'Clean Air Zone' road map, which aims to cut particulate matter emission by up to 90% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 70% by 2035, hopes to achieve the goal by promoting walking and cycling.

"But how can one do that without proper cycling and walking infrastructure?" asks Sathya Sankaran, bicycle mayor of Bengaluru.

When *Metrolife* took a walk down Raj Bhavan Road, which has one of the city's cycling tracks, we learnt that it was in decent condition. However, as it has been created on the footpath, it is often used by pedestrians. "There is no awareness that it is a cycling track," points out Abhishek Choudhary, a cycling enthusiast.

The TenderSURE roads in the central business district, a 2 km-stretch in Yelahanka, and a 1 km-stretch on HAL Airport Road, are some other tracks in the city, says Sankaran. Through his website Altmo, which tracks how users commute to work, he has been submitting inputs to the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) on making roads cyclist-friendly. His team has also submitted recommendations to the state government on how infrastructure can be improved to make it conducive for walking and cycling.

Choudhary, who works at a pharmaceutical company in Whitefield, notes, "Hyderabad has a 25 km cycling loop. Authorities should consider creating something like that in Bengaluru." He cycles an average of 110 km every weekend.

Potholes and dust

Raghav Kini, chief revenue officer at a consulting and communications company, often rides on the weekends during non-peak hours. "But even then, it is unsafe," says Kini. He typically starts from his home in Sadashivanagar and heads towards the airport. But when short on time, he rides within the city. "Potholes, waterlogging, traffic, uneven patches — we face all the same problems as other motorists. But cycling is all about getting into a rhythm, and when the rhythm is broken, it is tiring to get back into it," he explains.

Sankaran flags dust as another major obstacle. "My cycle slid off balance twice last week, because of the dust piled by the side of the road," he says, adding that unchecked construction has led to a significant increase in dust.

Construction debris

Shilpi Sahu has been commuting to work by bicycle for 15 years. She lives in the Bellandur area and covers a distance of 11 km to reach her office in Mahadevapura. "It takes about 45 minutes one way. Driving is out of the question as it takes much longer, and so does taking the bus," says the 46-year-old. Shilpi routinely grapples with potholes, mud and rash drivers. "I was hit by a two-wheeler two years ago and sustained bruises on my shoulder and knees. Quite often, I fall off the bike while trying to avoid construction debris," she shares. Over 100 of her coworkers cycle to work.

A 17 km track, called the 'pop-up cycling track' which came up on the Outer Ring Road during the pandemic, has been removed for metro construction. "We hope the GBA reintroduces it. It is important to have a network of cycling tracks, rather than short disconnected stretches," Sankaran explains.

Officials from DULT and GBA were unavailable for comment.

B'luru companies are pushing for AI at work

They are investing in tools, upskilling courses and workshops

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, once viewed with apprehension, has now become the norm in the workplace. Employers are actively promoting their adoption to speed up productivity.

Many firms in Bengaluru have purchased paid versions of AI tools and are urging employees, even those in non-technical roles, to upskill through in-house training or external courses.

In some offices, AI use is linked to performance. A machine learning engineer, who works at a startup in HSR Layout, recalls how a coworker was commended during a town hall for his adept use of AI.

Sanjit (name changed), who manages cloud infrastructure for a company on Outer Ring Road, says his firm tracks AI metrics. "If you haven't used Cursor in a while, your manager gets an email! Even our dashboard monitors output, which impacts performance ratings," he explains. Despite the indirect pressure, he calls AI "an enabler" that has boosted his productivity by 40%. "I handle the thinking and logic for preparing technical documents. And I use AI to polish the format," he explains.

Aarushi (name changed), a developer in Nagawara, says AI tools aren't fully reliable but help her write, test, and debug code faster. "Sometimes I would log out at midnight. Now I finish on time and have evenings free for badminton and movies," she says.

AI platforms are also being used for basic legal vetting of company documents, with a professional later reviewing the results. This approach is called "human in the loop", says an employee of an Electronic City firm.

Beyond tech corridors

Jeevan Jayaram, a copy supervisor at a digital marketing agency in Domlur, says his firm uses around 15 AI tools. "My team's AI usage is over 50%. Our work has shifted from purely writing to a mix of prompting and refining a brand's USP," he says. Faster output drives more business. Earlier they handled three or four clients at a time. Now, they can take on five or six.

Some PR agencies mandate learning ChatGPT. Chetan, a communications professional, attended a workshop on building custom GPTs for clients, followed by a certification course. He has completed three courses to monitor and prepare client coverage, and understand news tonality. Quicker turnaround allows him to start his work at 8 am instead of 6 am, he says.

Amogh Ravindra, who runs a design and production house in Kengeri, says his team recently used the ElevenLabs platform to clone a voice when an artiste was not available to re-record a word last minute. Using Midjourney, they once generated outdoor scenery and a hand movement for an ad film. He says the process needs a lot of iterations and saves no more than an hour daily. Talking of the flip side, he says with clients accepting AI, budgets have nearly halved.

For talent acquisition managers like Kurian Thomas, AI helps in scanning 10 resumes in under 30 seconds and providing feedback to help him shortlist candidates. "This leaves me with more time to talk to a candidate," he says.

But these interviewees recognise the limitations of AI. In communications, AI falls short of interpreting customer behaviour, which is important for brands.

An AI-generated image of the growing adoption of AI tools at work.

Companies are also training staff on safe usage. They advise them to refrain from uploading source code, or confidential client data (such as projected revenue). A marketing professional feels companies need to bring in clear guidelines on AI usage, as some managers view collaborating with AI as "taking shortcuts".

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Shakti scheme improved women's access to jobs, healthcare: Study

Achieves over 90% penetration among lower-income women; 80% saved Rs 500 per week

BENGALURU, DHNS

An independent study on the impact of Karnataka's free bus travel scheme has found that over 80% of women beneficiaries reported better access to doctors, clinics, hospitals, and medicines across all districts surveyed.

The findings were presented to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday.

The 'Shakti Summary Report–August 2025' was compiled as part of the 'Impact Evaluation of the Five Guarantees of the Government of Karnataka' study, led by independent policy consultant Tara Krishnaswamy in collaboration with Lokniti–Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Indus Action Initiatives, Bangalore University, and Tumkur University, which conducted the field research.

Nearly two-thirds of working women in the city commute daily using free bus rides. DH FILE PHOTO

The study, focusing on the socio-economic impact of the scheme on women and their families, was based on a random, door-to-door survey across 15 districts — Bagalkot, Belagavi, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Bidar, Chikkamagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Davanagere, Hassan, Kalaburagi, Kolar, Mandya, Tumakuru, Vijayanagar and Vijayapura — covering more than 6,000 women.

> Several respondents pointed to challenges such as limited coverage, infrequent services, and overcrowded buses. Around 79% said they had experienced delays in catching buses due to crowding.

It also included focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews in five districts.

The survey revealed that the scheme has achieved over 90% penetration among lower-income women, with over 80% saving up to Rs 500 per week. Nearly 19% of lower-income women across the state reported finding new jobs or moving to better-paying ones due to zero-ticket travel.

In Bengaluru Urban, 34% reported new or improved employment, with 26% having secured new jobs. Nearly two-thirds of working women in the city commute daily using free bus rides.

"The report shows how the earning potential of women is being stifled by the lack of affordable mobility. It is very difficult to create a policy that allows such a large section of the population to access higher earnings. But Shakti has brought measurable improvements," said Tara.

The study found that 95% of women heading households felt financially uplifted by the scheme. Daily wage earners reported saving nearly one-third of their income, thanks to free travel.

Mental health festival to focus on openness, inclusion

To be held on November 8 & 9

BENGALURU, DHNS

The second edition of 'Manotsava', a national mental health festival, will be held on November 8 and 9 at The Lalit Ashok on Kumara Krupa Road.

The festival is being co-hosted by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation (RNPF), the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans), and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS). It will bring together leading voices from mental health, science, policy, art, and lived experience.

Over 50 sessions will explore themes such as teen mental health, caregiving, and workplace burnout.

Keynote speakers include Dr Richard J Davidson (William James and Vilas Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the Founder and Director of the Center for Healthy Minds); author and philanthropist Rohini Nilekani; and Biocon Chairperson and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

Dr Pratima Murthy

"Having a mental health festival like 'Manotsava' helps to start conversations around mental well-being and mental illness. It can help reduce stigma, clarify misconceptions, and help people learn when and where to seek support," said Dr Pratima Murthy, Director and Senior Professor of Psychiatry at Nimhans.

Explaining the inspiration behind the festival, Rohini Nilekani said, "Science alone cannot create change unless it connects with people's lived experiences. We needed a shared space — one where researchers, practitioners and citizens could come together to talk, listen and learn from each other. That is why we created 'Manotsava', to bring the science of the mind closer to society, to make conversations on mental health open, inclusive and human."

She said the aim of the festival is to ensure that participants leave feeling informed, seen, and inspired to build a society where mental health is discussed openly and with dignity.

'Belong-a-luru'

'Manotsava' will also debut 'Belong-a-luru', a music-led, multidisciplinary cultural project by folk-rock band Swarathma, exploring what it means to belong in modern cities.

Research symposium

Following the public festival, NCBS will host an invite-only neuroscience research symposium on November 10 and 11 on the theme, 'Emerging Biology of Neuropsychiatric Disorders'.

For details, visit nationalmentalhealthfestival.com.

Regulate salt intake to reduce heart-related deaths: Experts

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of doctors from Bengaluru is working to design a programme to reduce excessive salt consumption to reduce mortality related to cardiovascular issues and paralysis.

At a recent meeting, the group decided to launch a statewide movement called 'Salt to Halt' to raise awareness about the dangers of consuming high amounts of salt.

Hosted by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), the meeting was attended by representatives from the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute and public health experts.

RGUHS Registrar Dr Riyaz Basha told *DH*: "According to the World Health Organization (WHO), each adult should consume about five grams of salt daily. While there is no accurate data, people consume at least 8-11 grams of salt, which is dangerous."

He added that lifestyle, eating out regularly and food with preservatives are adding to the danger.

He further said that people are unaware about hypertension and even half of those aware, do not get the required treatment, leading to severe complications.

Only 12 out of 100 patients in India have high blood pressure well under control, according to WHO data.

The TAG will also collaborate with the state government to develop and implement long-term plans to support the cause.

Deepavali special trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will run the following trains connecting Bengaluru and other cities to clear the Deepavali rush:

Train number 07317 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 11.25 pm on October 17 and reach Vasco-Da-Gama at 2.55 pm the next day.

In the return direction, train number 07318 will leave Vasco-Da-Gama at 5 pm on October 18 and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 08.30 am the following day.

Both trains will run via Bengaluru Cantonment, SMVT Bengaluru, Hubballi, Londa and Madgaon.

Train number 06231 will depart from Mysuru at 11.55 pm on October 18 and 25, and reach Jaipur at 6.40 pm the following Monday.

In the return direction, train number 06232 will depart from Jaipur at 4 am on October 21 and 28, and reach Mysuru at 3.30 am the following Thursday.

Train number 06233 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 4.35 pm on October 17 and reach Santragachi (Kolkata) at 11.55 pm on Saturday.

In the return direction, train number 06234 will depart from Santragachi at 4.30 pm on October 19 and reach SMVT at 2 am on Tuesday.

St Anne's Degree College for Women, Halasuru, hosted a national conference on 'Navigating Management 5.0: Startups, Digital Innovation and Social Impact' on September 26. Rev Sr Margaret Fatima Mary, Secretary; Rev Sr J Mercy, Administrator; Prof Nisha Joseph, Principal; Prof Veena Kumari, Principal, St Anne's Evening College; PK Thomas, Co-Founder, ICIER; Dr Arthi, Head of the Department of Business Administration; and Prof Sangita, Department of Hindi and IQAC coordinator, among others were present.

Japanese ceramic show opens tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Japan Foundation and the Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru will present 'Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis', an exhibition showcasing Japan's distinctive unglazed ceramic tradition, at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road.

The travelling exhibition opens on October 18 and will be on display till October 26.

Yakishime pottery, an unglazed, high-fired Japanese stoneware, is known for its earthy textures and subtle aesthetics shaped by flame and ash. The craft dates back to 12th-century Japan.

GENERAL

Nimhans: 'Mental Health Sante'; Sudarshan H, Dr Pratima Murty and others; Nimhans Convention Centre; 10 am.

Udyabhanu Kalasangha: Remembering Aparna Vastare; Nagaraja Vastare, Sandhya Bhat, Krishnaprasad Mayasandra, Sagar Ninasam BS Vidyaranya and others; 10 am.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Pradhikara: Lecture on vachana movement by SG Siddaramaiah; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Kannada & Culture Department: Celebrating the poetry of Kanakadasa; Mamata G Sagar, Hajira Khanum, Siddharth MS, Chand Pasha, Dadapeer Jyman; staging of the play 'Ramadhanya', directed by KSDL Chandru; Kalagarama, Mallattahalli; 4.30 pm.

Sr Saraswati Vidyamandira: Celebrating 75th anniversary; 'Swaranjali' veena recital; Revati Kamat, Harish Nagaraju and others; VV Puram, 5 pm.

Bengaluru Theatre Groups: 'Chaddi Nagesh-75' release of felicitation volume; Umashree, 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru, Srinivas G Kappanna, TS Nagabharana, KV Nagarajamurty and Vasuki S; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 5 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in. Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	90%
Sunset (Oct 17)	6:00 pm
Sunrise (Oct 18)	6:10 am
Moonrise	1:52 am
Moonset	2:46 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

BRANCH OFFICE :RACHAMMA COMPLEX,UDGIR ROAD, NEAR JAIL: BIDAR, Telephone: 08482-228236/226381
e-mail : bdr.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in, Mobile:8123640918

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH E-AUCTION

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein have been taken possession under the provisions of SECTION – 29 of SFC's Act, 1951 and in exercise of powers conferred, the assets will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is condition" basis. The interested persons for the purchase of following assets may participate in the bid through e-auction.

Sl No.	Name of the Unit/Party	Description of the property for sale	Date of inspection	Reserve price (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1.	**M/s Khoba Chemicals and Synthetics Pvt.Ltd.,** Boral, Aurad Taluka, Dist:Bidar.	Sy.No. 7/5-B, Boral Village, Aurad Taluka, Dist:Bidar. 3.02 Acres Land & Building suitable for bulk drug Manufacturing.	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	21.30	2,13,000-00
2.	**M/s Shama Dall Mill, TMC No.15-128, Mohalla Dastagir,** Chitguppa,Tq:Humnabad Dist:Bidar.	Land, Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for the processing of all types of Dall, located at TMC No. 15-128, Mohalla Dastagir, Chitguppa, Tq:Humnabad, Dist:Bidar. Measuring 118 smt, (1271.50sft)	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	23.55	2,35,500-00
3.	**M/s Abhishek Dall Industry,** Plot No. 288, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bidar	Land,Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for the processing of all types of Dall, located at Plot No. 288, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bidar. Measuring 2000 sq.mtr (21520sft) ½ acre	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	63.00	6,30,000-00
4.	**M/s Namera Industrries, Plot No.** Spl. 28, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, 2nd Stage, Gadawanti village, Tq. Humnabad, Dist : Bidar.	Land,Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for Plastic Granuals, located at Plot No. Spl. 28, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, 2nd Stage, Gadawanti village, Tq. Humnabad, Dist : Bidar.	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M.	29.50	2,95,000-00
5.	**M/s Shambhavi Industries,** Plot No. Q-5, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Naubad, Bidar.	Land,Building and Plant & Machinery suitable for Non-woven fabric bags, unit located at Plot No. Q-5, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Naubad, Bidar.(7654sft)	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	174.00	17,40,000.00
6.	**M/s Venkateshwar Industries,** Plot No. 92, Sy. No. 21/21, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bakchawdi, Bidar Dist.	Land, Building and Plant and Machinery suitable for Dall Mill Activity, property details Plot No. 92, Sy. No. 21/21, KIADB Kolhar Industrial Area, Bakchawdi, Bidar Dist. (Measuring 8064 Sq.mtr) (2 Acres)	11-11-2025 Between 11.00 A.M. To 1.30 P.M	385.22	38,52,200.00

Terms and Conditions

a) Last date & time for receipt of EMD : 07/11/2025 upto 4.00 P.M.
b) E-Auction opening date & time: 10/11/2025 at 11-00am.& closing date & time: 17/11/2025 at 11.00 a.m.
c) For detailed other terms and conditions of e-auction please login https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and it is also advised that the Borrower / Personal Guarantors / Collateral Security Owners and other interested parties to participate in the E-auction. The interested persons are advised to visit aforesaid website

Date : 16-10-2025 **Sd/-**
Place: Bidar **BRANCH MANAGER**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF CORRIGENDUM-I NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of of corroded SS Ducts with PPFRP Ducts in HDI Building at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Benguluru-560037
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/1058/ETN-70A/2025-26 Dt.08.09.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 29.44Lakhs
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16:30 Hrs. on 31.10.2025
Bid clarification	Extended upto 17:00 Hrs. on 04.11.2025
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17.00hrs on 06.11.2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 13.11.2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 13.11.2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 58,880/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur.

No:KBJNL/ALBC/DB/TND/HW/2025-26/1119
Date: 15.10.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-3)
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the CEIG Class-I Electrical Contractor for the work of Headwork Maintenance under KTPP act in KW-3 in **Two Cover system**. Details are as below;

Indent No: 2454
Amount put to tender: Rs. 83.89 Lakhs
Category - General
Stages of Tender Process;

1. The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from **17.10.2025 to 29.10.2025** up to 5.00 PM.
2. Cover-I (Technical) Bid will be opened on 31.10.2025 at 11.00 AM.
3. Cover-II (Financial Bid) will be opened on 03.11.2025 at 11.00AM

At the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/402/ಕೆವಿಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಮಿಂಟೋ ಶ್ರೀ ಆಂಜನೇಯ ಭವನ, ಆಲೂರು ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–18, ದೂರವಾಣಿ:26709689/ 26706775, Email: endowmentcommissioner@gmail.com.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: E-1743497:HRICE-ADM0ADM1/293/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16.10.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಂಇ 66 ಮುಅಬ 2025, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.09.2025ರ** ಆದೇಶದನ್ವಯ ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ **"ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳ ವಸತಿ ಕೋಶ"** ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿ, ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ 2 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 018 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು, ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.10.2025ರಿಂದ 30/10/2025ರೊಳಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಅವಧಿ ಮೀರಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

1) ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ: ವಸತಿ ಕೋಶದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 1, ಮಾಸಿಕ ವೇತನ : ರೂ.50,000.00, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಭವ : 1. ಪದವೀಧರರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು. 2. ವಸತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇರುವಂತಹ ದೇವಾಲಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 5 ವರ್ಷ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದ್ಧತೆ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

2) ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ, ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 1, ಮಾಸಿಕ ವೇತನ : ರೂ.35,000.00, **ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಭವ :** 1. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪದವಿ ಪಡೆದಿರಬೇಕು. 2. ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಇಲಾಖೆ) ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಅನುಭವವಿರಬೇಕು. 3. ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯು ಹಿಂದೂ ಧರ್ಮದವರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಆಚರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಉಳ್ಳವರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–18

ವಾಸಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3306/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (EAST), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South-East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/TO/PB/2040/2025-26 Dt: 16.10.2025	Rs.23,74,991/- / Rs.50,000/-	30-10-2025 upto 5.00 p.m.	31-10-2025 after 5.01 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (SOUTH), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

2.	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1884/2025-26 Dt: 10.10.2025 Resrved for CAT-II(A)	Rs.6,92,332/- / Rs.8,700/-	27-10-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	28-10-2025 after 4.00 p.m.
3.		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1885/2025-26 Dt: 10.10.2025 Resrved for SC Catagory	Rs.4,81,931/- / Rs.6,100/-		
4.		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1886/2025-26 Dt: 10.10.2025 Resrved for CAT-I(A)	Rs.4,46,081/- / Rs.5,600/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (DESIGN & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

5.	RB-IT	BWSSB/ERB/533/2025-26 Dt: 13.10.2025	Rs.1,10,400/- (EMD)	29-10-2025 upto 5.00 p.m.	31-10-2025 after 11.00 a.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (RB-IT).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3310/25-26

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Self-enrolled online, clarifies GBA officer Moudgil

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior IAS officer Munish Moudgil, who is overseeing the ongoing caste survey in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), was marked as having "refused" to participate in the survey after enumerators were unable to reach him at his residence on multiple visits.

Sources said enumerators visited Moudgil's Vasanthnagar residence at least three times as part of the field exercise. Each time, he was not at home and the door was locked. A busy officer in charge of caste survey, revenue generation, e-khata and electoral rolls, he was not available over phone either.

Following standard protocol and on the instructions of their supervisor, the field staff eventually recorded the entry as a refusal in the official app.

Speaking to *DH*, Moudgil clarified that he had already completed the process as citizens were already given the option to self-enumerate online. "I start my day at 8 am and return home only around 10 pm. Some mischievous people are trying to make this into an issue. I had no idea the enumerators had come to my house. Anyway, I've already entered all my details on the web portal," he said.

Following similar complaints from other working citizens, the GBA had recently extended the daily enumeration hours from 6 pm to 9 pm to allow a better strike rate. So far, Bengaluru features at the bottom of the list of districts in terms of progress achieved in survey.

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Efforts on to revive HMT and VISL, says Kumaraswamy

MANDYA, DHNS:: Efforts are on to revive Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) and Sir M Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL) in Bhadravathi, said Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday.

Several rounds of discussions had been held and a detailed project report (DPR) was being prepared to revive HMT factory, he said.

He told reporters here that NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat had submitted a report on the revival of HMT.

High-level meetings had been held with the managing director of HMT, senior officials of the ministry and Saraswat, Kumaraswamy said.

Officials were sent to Japan to explore the possibilities of technical collaboration, the minister said.

"The people of Mandya have sought industries in the district. I have sought cooperation from the state government and also held discussions with several industrialists in Delhi, to set up industries in Mandya. I am making all efforts to boost industrial growth in Karnataka. The state government should have a good relationship with the Centre to fully benefit from its initiatives. Bringing politics in every matter is unnecessary," the minister said.

Earlier, he inaugurated a modern autorickshaw stand constructed at a cost of Rs 35 lakh at Sanjay Circle in the city.

"The auto stand was built using my MP development funds and that of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda. It is spacious and will benefit drivers and passengers," he said.

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VB DACE Appliances Pvt. Ltd, 7/8, 1st Street, Seethamal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai- 600018, Tamil Nadu.
1st Floor, shop number-4, Rathna Square Mall, 101-H, Sarada College Rd, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636016

Now, Priyank seeks action against govt staff with RSS links

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after seeking a ban on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) activities in public places, Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah again, this time for disciplinary action on government employees having links with the Hindu nationalist organisation.

In a letter dated October 13, which was released Thursday, Priyank cited the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules and pointed out that government employees are barred from holding membership in, or participating in the activities of, any organisation with political links and leanings. "In spite of this clear direction, it has been observed of late that government employees and servants are participating in programmes and activities of the RSS and other such organisations," Priyank stated. The minister urged Siddaramaiah to get a fresh circular issued warning government employees of disciplinary action.

This letter comes after Priyank, on October 4, asked Siddaramaiah to ban the activities of RSS on government premises, including state-run schools, parks and playgrounds.

Priyank said some employees in his rural development & panchayat raj department who attended the RSS' centenary celebrations wearing the organisation's uniform (Ganavesha) and brandishing canes will be suspended. "As permanent government employees, they can't do that (attend RSS' event)," Priyank said. "I've already issued show-cause notices and they'll be suspended in a day or two."

Priyank said panchayat development officers (PDOs), village administrative officers (VAOs) and others attended RSS events. "We have no problem with someone wanting to follow a particular ideology. But if you're a government employee, there are rules. And I'm only asking for those rules to be enforced."

Yuvanidhi: Youths shun skill training; attending no hurdle for sop: Minister

Only 0.003% of beneficiaries avail of trainings

MYSURU, DHNS

A total of 3,34,430 unemployed diploma and degree holders have registered under the Yuvanidhi, one of the flagship schemes of the Congress government.

But so far, only 1,500 youths have availed the benefit of trainings offered by the Karnataka State Skill Development Corporation (KSSDC) under the department of skill development entrepreneurship and livelihood in the past two years.

KSSDC MD N M Nagaraja said they offered trainings to 33,712 youth in the state during 2023-24 and 2024-25. But among those registered under Yuvanidhi, only 1,500 (0.003%) beneficiaries availed the training.

In Mysuru district, among 13,581 youth registered under Yuvanidhi, only 200 availed trainings offered by KSSDC, according to district skill development officer K Narayanamurthy.

Also, among 43,577 unemployed diploma and degree holders registered under Yuvanidhi in Mysuru division, only 3,158 beneficiaries (0.072%) have registered for the divisional-level mega job mela organised at Maharaja's college ground in Mysuru on October 17.

Youths queue up to apply for jobs during a skill development programme in Mysuru. DH FILE PHOTO

Minister for Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil said, "Beneficiaries seem to be reluctant to avail skills or training worrying that it might become a hurdle to get benefit under Yuvanidhi. Even after training, youths will get Yuvanidhi fund, till they get jobs. So, they should avail skill development trainings and participate in job melas organised by the government," he said.

Patil said they were starting multi-skill development training centres at a cost of Rs 380 crore at Varuna in Mysuru district, Koppal and Kalaburagi districts.

KSSDC MD Jayaram told *DH* that they were sending messages to all those registered under Yuvanidhi, regarding job melas and training programmes.

The MD said funds had been allotted for these centres in the budget. The project was in the initial stage, he said.

In these centres, besides technical skills, they plan to offer training in multiple employability skills and soft skills required by industries, including those in the hospitality and tourism sectors, he said.

The highest number of registrations under Yuvanidhi is from Belagavi (41,323), followed by 22,494 in Kalaburagi, 20,585 in Vijayapura, 20,063 in Bagalkot, 19,862 in Raichur, 17,892 in Bengaluru Urban and 19,862 in Mysuru.

Suresh (name changed), a Yuvanidhi beneficiary, said he did not avail training or attend job mela as he was preparing for the UPSC exam.

Reduction in SWD buffer zones finalised

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Urban Development Department on Thursday issued a final notification reducing the buffer zone around stormwater drains by half within the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region, including the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and other local planning bodies.

The draft notification issued on September 2 had proposed amending Section 13(E) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961, to modify zoning regulations in the Revised Master Plan 2015, the Bangalore–Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority's Master Plan and other local planning areas within the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region. The buffer zones around lakes will continue to be maintained as per the records of the Revenue Department.

Cong releases 2013 govt circular to corner BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress government on Thursday released a 2013 circular, issued when the BJP was in power, restricting the use of school premises and attached playgrounds for educational purposes only.

The February 2013 circular was issued by then Commissioner for Public Instruction S R Umashankar. BJP's Jagadish Shettar was the chief minister at the time. The circular was issued when permission was sought to organise a private event at the premises of the Fort High School in Chamarajpet.

"School premises must be used only for activities concerning the syllabus, extra-curricular programmes, sports, physical education and exercise. Therefore, it is hereby directed that permission should not be given to hold non-educational events at school premises and playgrounds," the circular stated.

The 2013 circular was released by the chief minister's office to counter the Opposition BJP's protests against the Congress government's plan to prohibit RSS' activities in public places.

"Is the BJP unaware of its own government's decision? Or, doesn't this apply to the RSS?" IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge asked.

Priyank has sought a ban on RSS' activities in public places, including parks and playgrounds. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to examine Priyank's demand.

"Even as the circular remains in force, the RSS is shamelessly treating schools as the property of Hedgewar's (RSS founder) family to conduct its activities," Priyank charged.

M'rashtra man held for abusing Priyank Kharge over RSS remark

BENGALRU/KALABURAGI, DHNS: In a joint operation, police teams from Bengaluru and Kalaburagi have arrested a man from Maharashtra accused of issuing threats to minister Priyank Kharge.

The suspect is Dhanappa Narone, 40.

Dhanappa Narone

Kalaburagi sub-urban police officials, who accompanied Bengaluru cops, said that Narone was a marketing agent engaged in the sales of biscuits and chocolates in Solapur.

"He was secured in Latur, Maharashtra," a senior Bengaluru police officer told *DH*. "He is originally from Solapur and had fled to Latur. Technical leads helped narrow down his location."

Police investigators tracked his location using cellphone tower dumps and other methods before securing him.

According to police, the team that executed the arrest will reach Bengaluru late Thursday night, and Narone will likely be produced before a local court on Friday.

Hakay Akshay Machhindra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) in Bengaluru, supervised the operation.

On October 15, Kharge shared a video on X where a man on the phone, now identified as Narone, was hurling abuses at him. "I am with the RSS," Narone was heard saying in the video.

This followed Kharge's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, seeking a ban on activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in government schools, colleges and public institutions. "Please see the kind of words used in RSS shakhas. I have received several such calls since morning," Kharge said in the video. The Sadashivanagar police in Bengaluru subsequently registered an FIR and launched a search operation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase an undivided share of 19,819.37 square feet of saleable built up area forming part of **Unit Nos.201, 202** of the 2nd floor and **Unit Nos.401 and 402** of the 4th floor along with the exclusive right to use 26 car parking spaces in Tower B of the project known as '**Centennial**', constructed on land bearing Survey Nos.74 & 77, comprising of Plot Nos.8A, 8B, 8C & 8D, situated at Doddanekundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Whitefield, Bangalore East Taluk along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 9,566.83 square feet in the above described land.

The aforesaid undivided share of 19,819.37 square feet of saleable built-up area in 2nd and 4th floors along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 9,566.83 square feet and exclusive right to use 26 car parking spaces in Tower B of 'Centennial', are together referred to as the ("**Schedule Property**"). The Schedule Property is owned by Sentient Assets ("**Company**") and has been more fully described in the schedule below.

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) or any individual having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

An undivided share of 19,819.37 square feet of saleable built up area forming part of **Unit Nos.201, 202** of the 2nd floor and **Unit Nos.401 and 402** of the 4th floor and the exclusive right to use 26 car parking spaces, in Tower B of the project known as '**Centennial**', constructed on land bearing Survey Nos.74 & 77, comprising of Plot Nos.8A, 8B, 8C & 8D, situated at Doddanekundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Whitefield, Bangalore East Taluk along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 9,566.83 square feet and bounded as follows:

East by : Private Property;
West by : Main Road;
North by : Road;
South by: Road.

Date : 17-10-2025
Place : Bengaluru

Arjun K Perikal
Advocate
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.
Prestige Sterling Square, Level 2
State Bank of India Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Email: arjun.perikal@amsshardul.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule A and B hereunder from its present owner **MR.JEBBY JOSEPH** and **MR. JEFFY JOSEPH,** both sons of late Mr.P.J.Joseph, both residing at P.O. Box No.51926, Abu Dhabi, UAE, who have represented that they have clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **Fifteen (15) days** hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the commercial unit bearing **No.1/13 (old No."A")** assigned PID No.76-8-1/13 on the Seventh Floor in the commercial building known as **"Sobha Pearl"** measuring a super built up area of about 4315.50 sq.ft (376.16 sq.mtrs) together with six (6) covered car parking spaces bearing Nos.35 to 40 both inclusive in the upper basement along with 5.24% (4314.50/8312 sq. ft.) equivalent to 1697 sq.ft undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing Municipal No.1 (Old No.16, 17, 18 and 19), situated at **Commissariat Road, Ward No.76, Bangalore** on which the commercial building **"Sobha Pearl"** has been constructed along with proportionate share in the common areas, amenities, facilities and infrastructure attached thereto as one composite property.

ARVIND RAGHAVAN
ADVOCATE
#48, "ISHITHA",
2ND MAIN ROAD, VYALIKAVAL
BANGALORE – 560 003
arvind_ncsr@yahoo.com
Bangalore Date:17/10/2025

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017.
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Expansion of the Existing DPC Review Conference Hall at New Guest House, Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru – 560017.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/20/2025-26 dated: 26/09/2025
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 24.22Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 10.30 hrs on 18/10/2025
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 22/10/2025
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs on 22/10/2025

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/A to H/Road/RNC/672 Date- 16.10.2025
e-Procurement (Tender Notice)

1	Name of Work	Resurfacing/ Refurbishing work of Road from Airport to Hinoo Chowk in Ranchi Jharkhand.
2	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 9,65,17,858.00/- (Rupees Nine Crore Sixty-Five Lakhs, Seventeen Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty-Eight) only.
4	Time of Completion	06 Months
5	Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted online	Tender document fee: Rs 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only . **Non-Refundable.** Bid Security: Rs 9,66,000.00/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Sixty-Six Thousand) only
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	17.10.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	07.11.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	Date/Time of opening of Bid	10.11.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
10	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2225878

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
PR 364298 Urban Development(25-26)D **JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi**

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/Infra/CR-112/2024-25 Date: 16.10.2025

Announcement of Short Term Re-Tender

Short term Re-tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities through e-Procurement portal in double-envelope mode for Supplier to supply **"Xerox Machine"** to the Minority Residential Schools/Colleges and Moulana Azad Model schools in the academic year 2025-26. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**17.10.2025**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 495.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.7,42,500/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**27.10.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**05.11.2025 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**07.11.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**10.11.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/ 080-22535918.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3320/25-26

CORRIGENDUM - 4 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2025/SEP/02, DATED. 11-09-2025

The Tender Notice No. CON/2025/SEP/02 against **Tender No. CE/CON/J-I/DDC/2025/13** have been **cancelled** on administrative ground.

Chief Engineer/Con/Manipur Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

ELECTRICAL WORK

E-Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/15/25-26. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Sl. No.1**; **Tender No.**: AP/EL/15/25-26; **Name of work:** At Alipurduar Division: - Implementation of 02 MW capacity land based Solar PV system project near Alipurduar Junction power house through public private partnership (PPP) by design, build, finance, operate maintain and transfer (DBFOMT) basis for a period of 25 years. **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹28,25,10,000/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹21,36,000/-. E-tender will be **closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 05-11-2025 and will be opened on 05-11-2025 at 15:30 hrs. at DRM/Elect. (G)/ Alipurduar Jn.'s office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G & Chg., Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

IMPLEMENTATION OF 03 MW CAPACITY LAND BASED SOLAR PV SYSTEM PROJECT

E-Tender Notice No. AP/EL/16/25-26 Dated: 14-10-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No. AP/EL/16/25-26. Name of work:** At Alipurduar Division: Implementation of 03 MW capacity Land based Solar PV system project at Kanchan view colony, Alipurduar Jn. through Public Private Partnership (PPP) by Design, Build, Finance, Operate, maintain and Transfer (DBFOMT) basis for a period of 25 years. **Tender Value:** ₹42,37,65,000/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹32,04,000/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening** at **15.30** hrs. on **05-11-2025** at DRM/Elect (G)/Alipurduar Jn. office. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. DEE/ G & Chg., Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PROFORMA 10-01
INDIAN RAILWAYS
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the South Western Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz., AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as **LIVE** at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line in Mysore stabling line 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Sl. No.	Section	Chainage in KM		Probable Date of Energization
1	Mysore yard stabling line 1, 2, 3 & 4	136/419	137/292	13.10.2025

Place: Bengaluru.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer
Traction Distribution-I/Construction/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/563/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

e-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH

e-Auction Notice No.: LEASE-KGP-25-20 Dated: 15.10.2025

For & on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 03 (three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website. **Category:** Parcel. **Catalogue No.:** LEASE-KGP-25-20. **Date of e-Auction:** 31.10.2025. **Auction Start Time:** 10.00 hrs. **Auction Closing Time:** 17.30 hrs. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-728) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur**
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for the favours received
Seeking for the grace and blessing
- Suniti

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THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339,
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 16/25-26 Dt: 17.10.2025
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders, detailed below:

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of 5C X 35 Sq.mm Trailing Cable. **HGML/2025-26/IND0404**	1,80,000/-
2	Procurement of MS Steel item. **HGML/2025-26/IND0402.**	2,03,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **23.10.2025 at 10.00 AM for Sl.No.1 & 31.10.2025 at 10.00 AM for Sl.No.2. (2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **31.10.2025 at 4.00 PM for Sl.No.1 & 15.11.2025 at 4.00 PM for Sl.no.2. (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **03.11.2025 at 10.00 AM for Sl.No.1 &17.11.2025 at 10.00AM for Sl.No.2.** For further details interested bidders are advised to logon to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय **प्रपत्र संख्या–1**
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, झुमरीतिलैया

ई– निविदा (तृतीय आमंत्रण)

निविदा संख्या :- 25/JMT/2025-26 **दिनांक 14-10-2025**

क्र0 स0	विवरणी: कार्य का नाम	विस्तृत विवरणी: प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रिम जमानत की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय
1	Left out work of detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of 10.0 M dia R.C.C. Intake well cum pump house, Gangway 75.1 mtr. length and 3.95 mtr. wide, Pipe Bridge 70.0 mtr. length and 2.00 mtr. wide, Pipe Bridge 50 mtr. length and 2 mtr. wide, Pipe Bridge 100 mtr. length and 2 mtr. wide Pipe Bridge 60 mtr. length and 2 mtr. wide. 19.50 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw/Clear Water rising main & Laying Distribution Network, , Supplying and Installation of Vertical turbine and Centrifugal pump motor, and Five years Operation and Maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for work of **Jainagar, Domchanch & Koderma** Block MVS Rural Water Supply Scheme under Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, **Jhumritelaiya** on turnkey basis. Year 2025-2026. (3rd Call)	**18488.12**	**184.89**	**10,000/-**	27 Months + 3 months (Trial and Run)
2	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :–	21-10-2025 at 5.00 बजे अपराह्न			
3	निविदा के पूर्व बैठक की तिथि एवं समय	29-10-2025 at 1.00 अपराह्न, अभियंता प्रमुख, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड, राँची			
4	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडींग) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय :–	12-11-2025 को 5.00 बजे अपराह्न			
5	सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई– गवर्नेंस, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, के ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	12-11-2025 को 5.00 बजे अपराह्न			
6	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :–	14-11-2025 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न			
7	तकनीकी बीड खोलने का स्थान :–	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, झुमरीतिलैया			
8	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पदनाम :–	ई0 अनुज कुमार सिन्हा, कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, झुमरीतिलैया			
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले कार्यालय का :–	08002536460, **Email-id eedwsd.jhumaritellaiya@gmail.com**			
10	ई प्रोक्युरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन नं0	0651-2480345			

• विस्तृत विवरणी बेबसाईट http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

जल ही जीवन है ! **स्वच्छता प्राण है !**

(ई0 अनुज कुमार सिन्हा)
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
झुमरीतिलैया।

PR.NO.364235 Drinking Water and Sanitation(25-26):D

Cabinet clears land acquisition formula for B'luru Business Corridor

Won't denotify land, will complete 74-km project in two years: DCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved five compensation options that will be offered to owners whose lands are notified for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) project, from Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road.

Announcing the same on Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said the project would be completed in two years, an ambitious target.

The options are: 35% of commercial sites, 40% of residential sites based on the total extent of land relinquished by the property owner, Transferrable Development Rights (TDR), additional Floor Area Area (FAR) — linked to allowing extra floors on top of what's permissible, and cash compensation.

"Of the five options, landowners can choose anyone," Shivakumar told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Although the project was notified in 2005-06, he said successive governments had failed to take it up due to the huge land acquisition cost. "We have decided to take a loan of Rs 27,000 crore to ensure the project sees the light of day. We estimate that traffic on the existing roads will reduce by 40%," he said.

The land was notified for a width of 100 metres. "We have decided to keep the road width at 65 meters, the same as the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. A provision has been made to accommodate the metro project in the future. The remaining 35 metres will be given back to farmers as compensation," Shivakumar said.

Under the cash compensation, he said landowners would get twice the guidance value in urban areas and thrice in rural areas. "Properties that are less than 20 guntas will be given cash compensation," he said.

While the minister hinted that commercial sites would be given to farmers in the same place where their land is located, residential sites will be given in future layouts, including Shivaram Karanth Layout, which is currently under construction.

"If landowners refuse to give the land, we will deposit the compensation in the court and proceed with the project. No land will be denotified at any cost," he said.

OC exemption okayed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet on Thursday approved exemption from obtaining occupancy certificates for houses constructed on sites up to 1,200 square feet.

Law Minister H K Patil gave the details after the Cabinet meeting.

He said that in exercise of the powers conferred on the government under the Karnataka Municipalities Act, the government decided to exempt residential buildings - ground plus two floors or stilt+floor - from obtaining occupancy certificates.

Kaneri seer barred from entering V'pura

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: Deputy Commissioner Anand K has issued an order banning Adrushya Kadasiddheshwar Swami of the Kaneri Mutt in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, from entering Vijayapura district.

The seer has been prohibited from entering the district from October 16 to December 16. This action follows a recent speech by the seer where he reportedly criticised a group referred to as the "CM-supported Lingayat Mathadheeshas' Federation," calling it a 'drama troupe' that toured Karnataka.

JD(S) decides to continue pact with BJP for upcoming polls

BENGALURU, DHNS

The JD(S) core committee meeting, held on Thursday, unanimously decided to continue the alliance with the BJP for all elections.

The wards and constituencies, however, will be decided by the top leaders.

Party leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy directed the workers to start voter registration for teachers and graduate constituency MLC polls.

Speaking after the meeting, MLC T A Sharavana said, "We discussed about all upcoming elections and also about where the party should contest. We all legislators shared our opinions."

In the meeting, the legislators requested Kumaraswamy to plan a tour across the state and decided to form a new core committee soon.

"Alliance will continue without any hurdles. Even in the meeting, it was discussed to face all elections in alliance with the BJP," said C B Suresh Babu, JD(S) leader in the Legislative Assembly.

Meanwhile, the party is planning a big rally next month to celebrate 25 years on November 22.

The venue for the rally will be decided soon, said the leaders.

'Reconstitute core panel'

Senior legislator G T Devegowda, head of the core committee, was absent from the meeting. Since he has been maintaining distance from the party, it was decided to reconstitute the core committee.

However, G T Devegowda visited party supremo H D Devegowda during the latter's hospitalisation.

Preferred jail over deputy CM post in 2019, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Brandishing his loyalty to Congress, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has claimed that he preferred going to jail by rejecting a plum post - akin to the one he holds now - in exchange for helping the BJP to power in 2019.

Shivakumar said this Wednesday during the launch of his biography - *D K Shivakumar: A Symbol of Loyalty* - written by K M Raghu.

The Opposition BJP viewed Shivakumar's statement as a threat to the Congress high command amid his power struggle with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

At the event, Shivakumar recalled the 2019 political turmoil when lawmakers in the governing Congress-JD(S) coalition resigned.

"I was in Kanakapura... my friends here know that I came running when 10 people (MLAs) went to the Speaker's office to submit their resignation. I brought back 5-6 MLAs to my quarters," Shivakumar said.

"I got a call from the BJP in Delhi. I won't say who, but the call came from an income tax auditor. My brother (DK Suresh) was present. There was a director-general here who spoke as well. He was on another phone. I was asked to choose between becoming deputy CM and going to jail," Shivakumar said.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar receives the blessings of Jnanpith award-winning poet-playwright Chandrashekhar Kambar at the launch of his biography 'D K Shivakumar: A Symbol of Loyalty' authored by K M Raghu, in Bengaluru.

"What was I to do? Party loyalty...at a very young age, I got an Assembly election ticket from Rajiv Gandhi. I received cooperation from Bangarappa. I've come this far. I said I prefer jail than becoming deputy CM. I could've become (deputy CM) then. I don't know what else would have happened politically. But I stood by my party, its workers, ideology, the path in which I grew and secular principles," Shivakumar said.

The Congress-JD(S) coalition, headed by H D Kumaraswamy, eventually fell in July 2019 when 17 MLAs resigned. The BJP came to power.

Shivakumar was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in September 2019 in a money-laundering case.

"Shivakumar doesn't do anything without a plan. He's sending a message to Siddaramaiah and the Congress leadership that he has other choices if he's not made the chief minister," Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed.

Expelled BJP lawmaker Basanagouda Patil Yatnal claimed that it was Shivakumar who wanted to strike a deal with the BJP.

"I said 5-6 years ago that Shivakumar approached one late union minister with an offer that he would form the government with the BJP if cases against him were dropped," he said.

Enumerators facing public abuse, long hours, says women's panel

'Households berating, insulting and disrespecting women'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has flagged a series of serious challenges faced by female staff appointed for the state's ongoing Social and Educational Survey.

In a strongly worded letter on Thursday to the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary said the challenges included public abuse, long, unsafe working hours and technical failures.

She urged immediate action to resolve the issues and ensure the safety and dignity of the women surveyors.

A primary concern raised is the hostile reception enumerators are receiving during their mandatory door-to-door visits.

The commission noted that households are frequently "berating, insulting and disrespecting" the women by not responding properly.

Choudhary called upon people's representatives to intervene and create public awareness to ensure enumerators are treated with respect and receive appropriate cooperation.

Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary has called upon people's representatives to intervene and create public awareness to ensure enumerators are treated with respect and receive appropriate cooperation.

The commission also directed the GBA to reduce the workday for women surveyors.

Currently prescribed from 9 am to 8 pm, the long hours are posing significant hardship for women who travel long distances or have family responsibilities, like caring for small children, sick parents and in-laws.

The commission has issued an order to shorten the survey period to end by 6 pm.

Particularly for the ease of movement and daily commute, the GBA has been requested to assign enumerators to nearby wards instead of far-off locations.

The letter points out several operational and technical roadblocks that are hampering the progress of the survey. They are:

Logistical confusion: Surveyors have been allocated specific wards, but the actual allocation of houses within those wards is incorrect, leading to confusion and delays. The commission has requested the prompt and accurate allocation of houses to resolve this.

Voter ID hurdle: A significant practical difficulty involves the voter ID card. Many residents have a voter ID, but the physical card is often not available at home. This mandatory data field is forcing enumerators to often enter details incorrectly just to proceed, stalling the overall process. The GBA must provide an alternative data entry system to bypass this problem.

Technical glitches: The digital execution of the survey is being marred by technical issues. The complaint mentions that the survey app is not installed properly for some staff, face capture is faulty, Aadhaar-OTP is not functioning correctly, and the app is generally plagued by server issues.

Missing kits: Many surveyors have not yet been provided with the basic necessary materials, including ID cards, census forms and survey kits, causing considerable inconvenience.

Deepavali holiday requested

Acknowledging the upcoming festive season, the commission has asked the GBA to grant a holiday for survey work on Deepavali to allow staff to celebrate.

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May his soul rest in peace.
Deeply mourned by:
Family Members
MR. SHAKIL SHAFI
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Socio-edu survey: CM gets enumerated at official residence

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday got himself enumerated at his official residence Kaveri during the ongoing Social and Educational Survey.

"I successfully completed my duty of providing details to the enumerators during the social and educational survey being conducted by our government through the backward classes commission," Siddaramaiah posted on X.

Noting that his government was conducting the survey to "eradicate inequality and poverty" and create an egalitarian society, Siddaramaiah urged everyone to participate in the survey without fail and honestly give their details.

He pointed out that information was necessary to understand social realities, after which the socio-educationally and economically backward persons can be identified and programmes can be taken up for their upliftment.

He clarified that the exercise wasn't limited to any caste but was rather a "scientific" attempt to shed light on the life of everyone in the state. The chief minister is said to have spent over 45 minutes during the survey.

The survey is a pet project of Siddaramaiah, who is known as a leader of the AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits).

An enumerator collects details from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the ongoing social and educational survey at his official residence in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Foolishness to think of scaring RSS, BJP: Shobha

BENGALURU: Union Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said on Thursday that it was the "foolishness" of the Congress to think it could "scare" RSS and BJP.

Addressing reporters, Karandlaje said: " Minister Priyank Kharge has been sent to restrict RSS. When RSS didn't fear Nehru and Indira Gandhi, there's no question of fearing Priyank Kharge. Running 2-3 governments, if they think they can scare RSS and BJP, it's their foolishness."

She was responding to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge's letter to CM Siddaramaiah, where Priyank sought a ban on RSS activities on government premises. Shobha also took objection to the banning of Kaadasiddeshwara Swami of Kaneri Mutt from entering Vijayapura district following controversial statements about Lingayat seers and Siddaramaiah.

'In-principle' nod for int'l cricket...

Stadium, from Page 1

With these world-class facilities, it will become one of the largest sports stadiums in the country."

During a special Cabinet meeting in April at the Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar district, the government decided to construct an international cricket stadium at Mysuru. With this, Karnataka is likely to have three international cricket stadiums.

A document by the Housing Department explained that the Chinnaswamy Stadium has only a seating capacity of 38,000, and that other cities smaller than Bengaluru also have bigger stadiums.

International-level cricket matches have not taken place at the Chinnaswamy Stadium since June 4, when a tragic stampede following victory celebrations of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) maiden IPL triumph led to the death of 11 persons. Since then, the KSCA's relations with the government have been strained.

The Justice John Michael Cunha Commission, formed to inquire into the stadium stampede issue, had recommended relocating events to "better-suited" venues.

The Cabinet decided to provide input subsidy at higher rates than the guidelines of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)/State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to 12.82 lakh hectares of land damaged during the heavy rain and floods that hit the state.

India asserts consumer interest

MEA-Trump, From Page 1

The statement has once again exposed the Modi government to accusation from the Opposition parties of surrendering India's strategic autonomy to the US.

The MEA, while refuting Trump's claim about his conversation with Modi, avoided an overtly confrontationist approach and stated that New Delhi's energy policies included broad-basing and diversifying sources in accordance with market conditions.

"India is a significant importer of oil and gas. It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective," Jaiswal said, adding: "Ensuring stable energy prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy. This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions."

New Delhi also underlined that India has been seeking to enhance its energy procurement from the US. "Whereas the US is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing," Jaiswal said.

Trump and his aides, over the past few months, have been giving vent to their disappointment over India's continued purchase of Russian oil, defying sanctions by the West.

Meanwhile, Russian ambassador to India Denis Alipov said on Thursday that crude oil from his country remained the most cost effective option on the global market and Moscow's energy ties with New Delhi were in tune with the latter's national interests.

Russia's share in India's total crude oil imports had risen from less than 2% before the launch of the Ukraine war in 2022 to around 40% by 2023–24. But, in recent months, Russia's share had slipped to about 36% of total oil imports of India.

BMS student raped in college...

Rape, from Page 1

When she reached the seventh floor, Jeevan, the FIR says, first tried to kiss her and then forcibly kissed her. She managed to get into the lift and went down to the sixth floor. Near the men's washroom, Jeevan allegedly pulled her inside and raped her. During the assault, he locked the room, grabbed her phone and kept it in his pocket when she received a call from her friend.

The incident is believed to have taken place between 1.30 pm and 1.50 pm. The survivor later came out and informed two of her friends. Jeevan allegedly called her afterward and asked if she needed a pill. She cut the call, the FIR noted.

"I didn't tell my parents initially as I was afraid they would be distressed. I was also ashamed. My friends supported me, after which I informed my parents and approached the police seeking action against Jeevan Gowda," she said in her statement. It isn't clear if the college floor where the offence occurred has CCTV cameras.

Govt order bans 'trespassing' on public places...

RSS, from Page 1

Patil told reporters that the government had decided to pass the order to provide "clarity" and to add some rules.

When specifically asked if the Cabinet's decision was a result of Priyank's letter, Patil was non-committal. "It could be a reason. The news that appeared on your papers could also be a reason. There may be many reasons."

"Government schools and colleges, aided institutions, playgrounds, public roads etc are meant for the citizens' use. Across the state, private organisations are using such properties for their activities, publicity, training.. etc, without prior permission from the department concerned, and in many cases, without intimation. This is deemed trespassing and threatens public safety. These organisations must take prior permission," notes a government document.

The document also notes that permission can be rejected if any activity is harmful to citizens and against the aspirations of the authority/organisation on whose premises the activity occurs.

Priyank, who had received threats following his letter to the chief minister, told reporters that new regulations will be introduced within 2-3 days.

"From now on, you cannot behave as you wish in public spaces and roads. They have to take permission, and granting it is left to the government's discretion. Wielding lathis and conducting a patha sanchalan through just an intimation... We will bring rules for this."

Responding to possibilities of the BJP hitting the courts, Priyank said: "For what reason will they go to the courts? Are we banning the BJP or the RSS or any other organisations? We are just notifying the procedure in public places and government schools."

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NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the Schedule Property of **Mr. Prabhakar Dommaraju,** son of Mr. D. Ramaraju, residing at No.548, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, 2nd Phase, NTI Colony, Kodigehalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560097 and **Mr. V. Srinivasarao Nallamalli,** son of Mr. Peraiah Nallamalli, residing at No.2-123, Swarna Main Road, Karamchedu Mandal Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh-523170 **("Owners").** Our Clients **("Clients")** is desirous of entering in to a sale transaction of the Schedule Property with the Owner who has represented to my clients that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with rights of alienation over the same.
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Rice at doorsteps to those under BPL & aged above 75

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar, Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa and others launch the poster of the Anna Suvidha Yojane for home delivery of food items to BPL & AAY card holders aged above 75 years at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO

Rice worth Rs 360 cr wasted every year in B'luru alone: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has announced home delivery of rice for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders aged above 75 years.

Speaking at the World Food Day programme on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Anna Bhagya scheme beneficiaries would receive pulses and other items along with 5 kg of rice, instead of 10 kg of rice.

Noting that 943 tonnes of rice worth Rs 360 crore goes waste every year in Bengaluru alone, he urged people to be mindful about wasting food.

"We were once dependent on America for rice, and now we have progressed to the point of exporting it to other countries. However, it is unfortunate that food wastage is also increasing," he said at the programme organised by the food and civil supplies department.

He said, "I know the sufferings due to hunger and the value of rice — that is why the Anna Bhagya scheme was implemented".

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said the government was considering giving each Anna Bhagya beneficiary an Indira grocery kit consisting of oil, lentils, sugar, salt and other items.

"A lot of people sell the additional 5 kg rice. Through the kit, we hope to prevent this misuse," he said.

The deputy chief minister said that the Congress government had prioritised food safety from the very beginning.

"From the time of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Devaraj Urs and S M Krishna in the state, we have always tried to satisfy the hunger of people. Krishna implemented mid-day meals to contain the increasing number of school dropouts".

On the Congress's party commitment to provide food security to the poor, the chief minister said, "Congress introduced the Food Security Act, but BJP called it the Vote Security Act. They were against the poor people".

He credited former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh with introducing the Food Security Act and playing a role in ending the hunger of people.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal, at few places South Interior and at one or two places over North Interior Karnataka.
Forecast Oct 17: Generally cloudy sky.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30.2	20.8	24.1
Bidar	31.2	20.2	0.0
Vijayapura	31.5	20.5	0.0
Dharwad	31.0	20.4	0.0
Haveri	30.6	21.6	0.0
Kalaburagi	32.6	22.6	0.6
Raichur	31.7	22.4	1.2
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.1	23.7	4.8
Karwar	33.0	24.7	4.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.3	24.2	0.9

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	27.6	21.5	0.0
Bengaluru	27.6	20.8	1.2
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	30.3	21.2	0.0
Davangere	30.5	20.0	1.4
Hassan	31.7	NA	0.5
Mysuru	30.2	20.2	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	27.2	18.6	4.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	32.0	21.0	NIL
Kolkata	33.0	25.0	NIL
Mumbai	33.0	28.0	NA
Chennai	30.0	27.0	NA
Pune	33.0	22.0	NA
Hyderabad	31.0	23.0	NA
Th'puram	33.0	25.0	NIL

Temperance Board among seven recommended for closure

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC) has recommended closure of seven and merger of nine state-run boards and corporations.

The KARC-2, headed by senior lawmaker R V Deshpande, submitted its 9th report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday. The report has 449 recommendations.

The seven entities recommended for closure include the Karnataka State Temperance Board for which the government recently appointed Sharanappa Saladpur as chairperson.

The Karnataka State Social Welfare Board, Karnataka Cooperative Poultry Federation, Karnataka Pulpwood Ltd, Karnataka State Agro Corn Products Ltd, Mysore Lamp Works Ltd and Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Ltd have been recommended for closure.

"The Commission reviewed the functioning of 82 boards and corporations across departments, assessing their relevance, financial sustainability, and functional efficiency. Based on these assessments, the Commission has made recommendations for merger, closure, or restructuring of certain entities to eliminate duplication, enhance accountability and optimize the use of public resources," the report stated.

Closure of the Temperance Board was recommended by the first KARC headed by Harnahalli Ramaswamy in 2001. "The Commission has noted the conflict where the government profits from liquor sales, while the Board attempts to reduce consumption through awareness. Hence, it is recommended to close the Board," the report stated.

The Board's work should be continued by the department of information and public relations and four employees should be moved somewhere else, it added.

The nine entities recommended for merger are Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd, Ahara Karnataka Ltd, Bengaluru Suburban Railway Company Ltd (B-RIDE), Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Ltd, Mysore Chrome Tanning Company Ltd, Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation, Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute and Command Area Development Authority.

"Some of the PSUs have been ordered either for closure or merger and deadlines have been fixed. However, the status of the PSUs remains active as they are not closed or merged. Hence, responsibility for the delay in winding up should be examined, and a clear timeline for closure of all similar inactive undertakings should be fixed by the Finance Department in coordination with the concerned administrative departments," the report stated.

Deshpande said that the KARC-2 had made a total of 5,677 recommendations covering 42 departments. This includes 449 new recommendations in its 9th report.

Of the 5,228 recommendations from the previous eight reports, Deshpande said 1,852 were implemented and the rest were either partly implemented, under implementation, under examination or unaccepted.

Man kills student in broad...

Murder, from Page 1

Around 2.15 pm, near an Indira Canteen behind the Mantri Square mall, he accosted her, pulled out a knife, slit her throat and rode off.

"He came on a motorbike and attacked her with a knife, besides trying to throw chilli powder into her face," a police officer close to the investigation said.

A police team has launched a hunt for the suspect. The body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem.

Police investigations revealed that Vignesh had been stalking Priya for several days and had proposed to her. When she refused his advances, he allegedly became enraged.

Priya's family, originally from Tamil Nadu, has lived in Swatantrapalya, Srirampuram, for the past 20 years. Her father, Gopal A, a tiles worker, is said to have complained to the police earlier about Vignesh's harassment.

The police took up a non-cognisable report (NCR) and warned Vignesh.

The parents also warned him to stay away from her. Gopal reportedly fainted upon hearing of his daughter's body and has been hospitalised.

A senior police officer said Vignesh had a criminal record.

He was earlier arrested for extorting money from vendors at KR Market by posing as a policeman. Police had also found several women's photographs on his mobile phone — many of them morphed and shared with his friends.

Priya's uncle, Murugan, said Vignesh lived opposite the family's house.

"He often tried to call Priya and threatened her when she didn't respond," he said.

Her brother, Prashanth G, told *DH*: "In April, Vignesh came from behind and tied a turmeric root thread — symbolic of a mangalsutra — around my sister's neck while she was performing puja during the Karaga celebration, and fled immediately. We filed a complaint at the Srirampuram police station, and they registered a non-cognisable report (NCR), but no proper action was taken. My sister might have been alive today if the police had arrested him then."

A staff member from Priya's college admissions department described her as a bright student.

REVA University students shine in international and national competitions

Sarvesh Galgale (second from left) receives the Platinum Award (First Prize) of the HKUST–SINO One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition 2025 held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from Prof Nancy Y. IP, President, HKUST, while Ting Cheng, Vice President - Research and Development (left) and Dr Shin Cheul Kim, Associate Vice President - Research and Development (Knowledge Transfer) look on. Sarvesh Galgale shares the prize with Ava Chan, Collaborator, University of Oxford, UK.

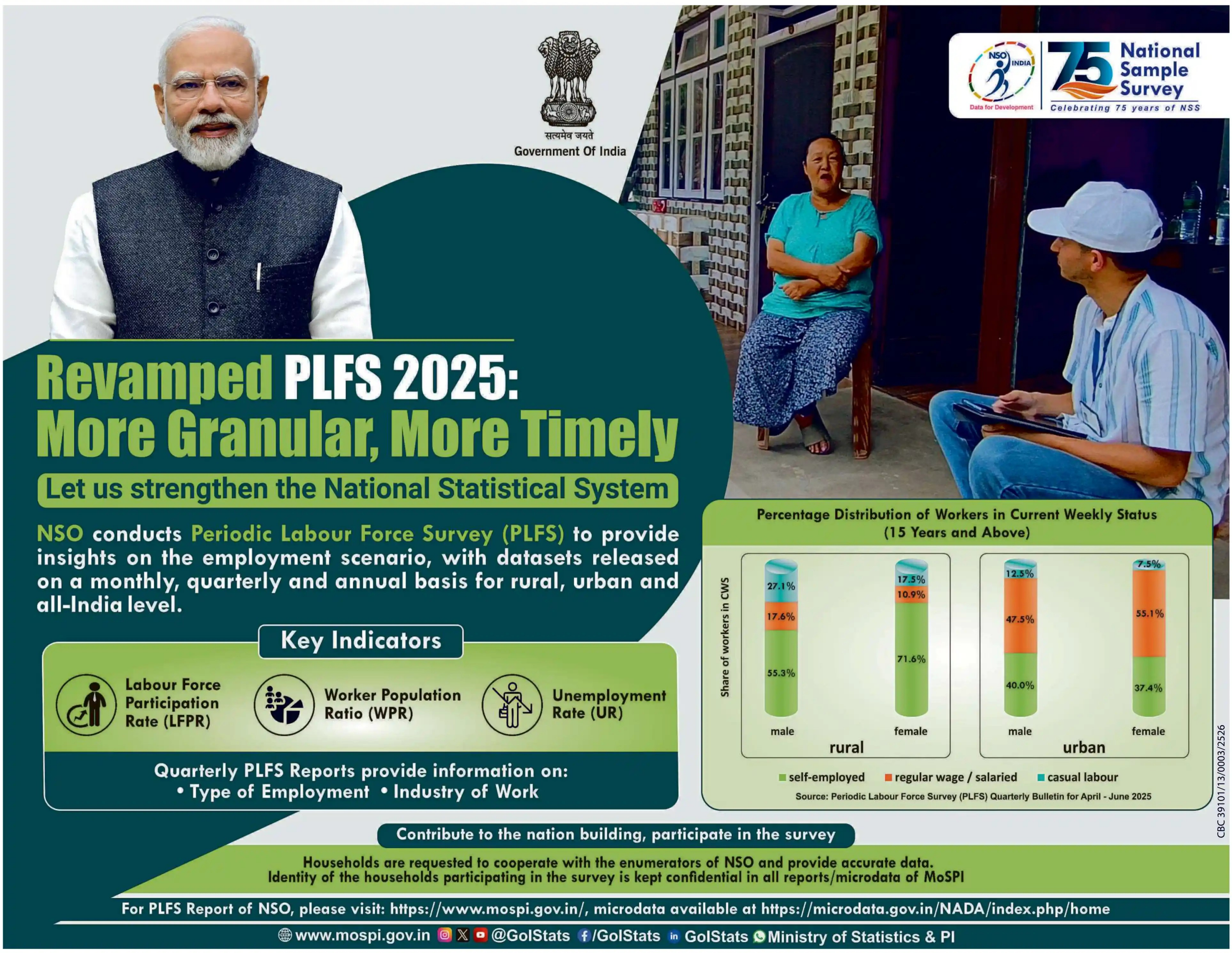
REVA University celebrates yet another moment of pride as its M.Sc. Bioinformatics students achieve remarkable success on national and international platforms.

Sarvesh Galgale, a first-year M.Sc. Bioinformatics student from the Department of Biotechnology, School of Applied Sciences, and his team, won the First Prize (Platinum Award) at the prestigious HKUST–SINO One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition 2025 held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on September 30, 2025. His team, 'Envirovex' also received a USD 18,000 start-up grant in recognition of their innovative solution that uses specialised enzymes in modular bioreactors to clean antibiotic pollution from wastewater - an impactful step toward combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting sustainable water treatment.

Adding to this success, Keerthana P, Puja D and Haritha M, M.Sc. Bioinformatics (third semester) students, secured the Second Prize in the BEST 2025 South Zone contest organised by ABLE India and hosted by SASTRA University, Thanjavur.

These achievements reflect REVA University's commitment to building innovation, research excellence and an 'Educate to Enterprise' mindset that empowers students to transform knowledge into impact.

Curated by DH Brandspot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Share of workers in CWS
27.1%
17.6%
55.3%
17.5%
10.9%
71.6%
12.5%
47.5%
40.0%
7.5%
55.1%
37.4%
male
female
male
female
rural
urban
self-employed
regular wage / salaried
casual labour
Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin for April - June 2025
CBC 39101/13/0003/2526
Contribute to the nation building, participate in the survey
Households are requested to cooperate with the enumerators of NSO and provide accurate data.
Identity of the households participating in the survey is kept confidential in all reports/microdata of MoSPI
For PLFS Report of NSO, please visit: https://www.mospi.gov.in/, microdata available at https://microdata.gov.in/NADA/index.php/home
www.mospi.gov.in @GoIStats /GoIStats GoIStats Ministry of Statistics & PI

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Softening CPI masks long-term concerns

India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and wholesale inflation, as seen in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), have fallen to record levels, beyond projections of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other agencies. Retail inflation slipped to 1.54% in September, the lowest since June 2017, while wholesale inflation declined to 0.13% on a year-on-year basis, and down from 0.52% in August. For the second time in this fiscal year, the retail inflation rate was below the RBI's target zone of 2-4%. This fall has been traced to a decline in food prices, including those of vegetables and pulses, despite an increase in the prices of vegetable oil. The consumer food price index fell by over 2%, also accounting for the lower rural inflation in relation to urban inflation.

It should be noted that while retail inflation hit record lows, there was no similar fall in core inflation, which is inflation without taking into consideration the prices of goods such as food items, fuel, and others with volatile prices. Core inflation represents a longer trend – it rose from 4.2% in August to 4.6% in September and has stayed above 4% for eight consecutive months. The spurt in core inflation has been partly on account of the recent increase in gold prices. But the rise is considerable even if gold is excluded from the mix. This should be a matter of concern because it may be indicative of an active long-term trend of inflation. The rise, indeed, should be a factor to be considered for the longer term, but the softening of retail inflation also presents opportunities for the RBI and other policymakers to make useful interventions in the economy. Retail inflation could find still lower levels when the GST cuts come into full force. The September inflation rate has only partially captured the price cuts resulting from the GST restructuring.

Core inflation has consistently stayed above 4% and may be indicative of an active long-term trend

Since retail inflation has stayed below the RBI's medium-term target of 4% for seven straight months, the apex bank is likely to make another cut in interest rates in its December meeting. The RBI said in its last meeting that inflation was likely to moderate further in the current fiscal year because of the GST rate cuts and a favourable outlook on food prices. While the high festival demand in the current month does not give a comprehensive picture of the scenario, it is almost certain that the RBI will prioritise growth over inflation in the coming months.

After the fallout, a fresh start with Canada

The visit by Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand to New Delhi earlier this week extends efforts to reset relations between the two countries that hit a low in 2023 over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The Canadian government, headed by Justin Trudeau, had alleged that the killing of Nijjar, a Canadian national, was orchestrated by India's secret services. India denied the charge, but the issue led to a series of actions, including a suspension of trade negotiations, disruption of visa services, and expulsion of diplomats. The rift had caused anxiety among the sizeable, influential Indian diaspora in Canada, which also maintains close links with India. It had an economic fallout as well. India and Canada are large economies, and both have been hit by US President Donald Trump's tariff war. A re-establishment of bilateral relations, therefore, also makes economic sense.

The change of leadership in Canada provided crucial impetus. Prime Minister Mark Carney has consciously tried to restore relations as part of his emphasis on engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. Carney, an economist, has from the beginning indicated that he wanted to rebuild relations with India. India has also positively responded to these signals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Canada as a special invitee to the G-7 summit outreach in June. The Trudeau government's policy towards India was influenced by domestic politics, as the regime depended on the support of the extremist fringe among the Sikh diaspora, and of the National Democratic Party led by Jagmeet Singh, who is no friend of India. Politics in Canada has seen a shift after the April 2025 election, giving Carney more leeway to repair relations with India.

Canadian minister's India visit signals renewed ties in energy, trade, and strategic engagement

In her first official visit to India, the Canadian Foreign Minister met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. The visit saw both countries agreeing on a host of collaborative measures. Ministerial-level discussions on bilateral trade and investments are to begin soon, and a high-level dialogue on energy co-operation is to be re-established. The focus of the deliberations was on initiatives that were put on hold since 2023. The visit is expected to re-establish cooperation in trade, technology, education, and security. Discussions around a free trade agreement are proposed to be restarted. A visit by Carney to India in February next year is in the works. The messaging of the foreign minister's visit is one of reconciliation, a reconnection before both parties set out to chart the course for future bilateral engagement.

A FALSE DAWN?

Peace by force undermines Palestinian autonomy

Trump's Gaza plan ignores core questions on occupation and resistance, risks another truce breakdown

MALAY MISHRA

With two years of war having passed into the bloodied history of modern times, celebrations were seen on both sides of the northern frontier as the 'historic' Gaza peace plan was foisted on Palestine by an American-led international order. The celebrations appear premature, considering how the previous agreements failed, including the one in January, which was violated by Israel after two months. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will try to subvert the agreement (finalised for the first phase only) to hold on to power, with the Israeli Supreme Court waiting in the wings to oust him from office. Donald Trump, while signing the first phase plan, stated that he couldn't guarantee that Israel would not attack Hamas again if they tried to regroup. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has given orders to the IDF to hunt down Hamas militants if Hamas refuses to implement the agreement.

The first phase of the plan is done, and 20 living hostages were released from Hamas's captivity while Israel delivered on its agreement to free nearly 2,000 Palestinian militants and civilians. A grand ceremony jointly hosted by Egypt and the United States on October 13 at the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh brought a galaxy of world leaders from the Western world as well as the region to applaud the statesmanship of the US President.

It is important to note that neither the UN, which is mandated to administer Gaza, nor the Palestinian Authority, which is supposedly governing the West Bank, was consulted on the peace plan. For instance, Navi Pillay, the former Chair of the UN Commission for Human Rights, the body which found Israel responsible for committing genocide (subsequently taken by South Africa to the International Court of Justice), claimed that Palestine was not a party to the plan.

The second phase of the plan, dealing with the disarmament of Hamas and future governance of Gaza, is in limbo as Hamas has not agreed to the subsequent phases of the plan. This suits the Far-Right Likud party headed by Netanyahu well, as it will probably attribute all ensuing problems to the intransigence of Hamas. It is not surprising to understand the position Hamas has taken in the face of obstacles and having lost men and arms, besides its image within the Arab bloc. With 67,000 plus innocent lives lost, women and children murdered, maimed, raped, and starved to death, and with hospitals, schools, and community centres bombed, food and medical supplies weaponised, and

homes destroyed, what could have been their options?

As Franz Fanon, the celebrated author of the decolonisation primer The Wretched of the Earth, says, "Decolonisation is truly the creation of new men. But this creation owes nothing of its legitimacy to any supernatural power; the thing which has been colonised becomes man during the same process by which it frees itself". Hamas has thought fit not to surrender the right of the Palestinian people to speak for themselves, for their self-determination and sovereignty. The legitimacy of Hamas derives from its mandate to govern Gaza since its victory in the 2006 elections, no matter whether or not the Western powers, who now clamour to recognise the State of Palestine, see it as a terrorist group.

India's position defies tradition

While India had given its all-out support to the peace plan (Prime Minister Modi congratulated both Netanyahu and Trump several times), Gaza or Hamas has been conspicuously absent in Delhi's political thinking. India, it may be noted, was one of the first non-Arab countries to recognise the PLO in 1974 and Palestine as a State in 1998, in line with its principled position on decolonisation.

Writing in the Harijan in November 1938, Gandhi had said, "My sympathy for Jews does not blind me to the requirements of justice. It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs". India had opposed the UN Resolution 181, which laid the ground for the UN Partition Plan of 1947. Contrast it with the present-day pattern of India's voting in support of the "two-nation theory" on the floor of the UN, along with 153 member nations, when it has been an uncomfortable proposition for New Delhi, even after several resolutions calling out Israel's genocidal actions and proposing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza were vetoed. While 'Palestine' may have become taboo in public discourse, this position amounts to denying history and the long tradition of India's support for the Palestinian cause.

Trump's peace plan, a cleverly manipulated instrument of surrender for Hamas, leaves little room for any kind of Palestinian autonomy now or in the future, nor any scope for its participation in post-conflict reconstruction. The plan has been critiqued for its vagueness and top-down imposition by the global rules-based order clique in cahoots with global capitalism. Soon after the peace summit and withdrawal of the IDF from the proximate periphery of Gaza, militants released from Israeli prisons publicly slaughtered so-called infidels.

With food aid having been halted, chaos is ruling the Gaza landscape again. Peace is extremely fragile – the deftly crafted scheme under the Trump imprimatur, so readily endorsed by Arab nations driven by their own plans, may have come to naught with Palestinian resistance showing no sign of dying out.

Peace imposed by force can never withstand the increasing challenge of just demands for a homeland. The global order needs to recognise this.

(The writer is a retired diplomat and political analyst; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Little things, big difference

The universe helps us find joy when we are ready to make an effort

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

Like most Indian homes, the so-called drawing room at our home in Amritsar always stood ignored. Even when guests came, we made them sit in the lobby or in one of the bedrooms. We overlooked it despite it having floor-to-ceiling windows facing our small but serene garden. But this early June, as I made two single-seat sofas face the garden with a small marble-top table in the centre, I was completely oblivious that this little change would turn into my favourite spot.

I felt the connection, as if the river was gently flowing in me, in the very first minutes as I lounged – clapping my eyes on the garden. It is blessed with an array of plants, many also in the pots which remain shaded by an old tree known for its big yellow flowers. For it, the season of fall is always on, as it sheds leaves after every few days, and the grass always welcomes them. They may lie scattered, yet they continue to exude beauty of their own. The wall of it is embellished with original Nanakshahi bricks.

I am not its only admirer; there are several birds, including exotic ones. I have also spotted a family of squirrels which lives on the tree but is often running on the wall. When it rains, the sound of it makes me contemplate life, and the fragrance of the wet soil wafts freely inside. Imagine the joy of the garden when the spring comes, as it will explode with fragrant flowers.

The day I first sat, I thought, 'I will come here for tea or coffee,' but I soon realised that whenever I am home, I am always here, where I also began enjoying my meals, listening to the music or podcasts, afternoon naps, reading books and even writing. The piece you are reading now was also written here, the session of which remained punctuated with contemplative breaks, like several other articles I wrote here. Even writing ideas have marched to me here. There were days I headed to the local cafes to find the right space, not knowing the perfect spot was at home itself.

Just a month ago, I thought of changing my morning exercise venue from the terrace to this garden, which has become a ritual ever since. I end it by walking barefoot on the grass. I have also kept a large wooden bench next to the garden, on which I sit to enjoy my breakfast, making it 'breakfast by the garden' or simply 'breakfast with a view.'

Whenever I am in a contemplative mood, I can't stop feeling grateful for finding solace where I least expected it. Joys must be found or created. The universe helps us find them when we are ready to make an effort. I had never imagined that one small change in the drawing room would open a world for me, where solace would greet me in every moment. I must say, little things truly make all the difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abandon the ill-conceived project

The proposed 16.7-km tunnel road between the Central Silk Board and Hebbal in Bengaluru appears to be ill-conceived. The committee headed by BMRCL executive director S Hegaraddi has rightly pointed out several inconsistencies and 'bare minimum' geological data in the DPR. It is clear that the firm responsible for preparing the DPR is either inexperienced or has done shoddy work, which could lead to cost escalation, waterlogging, and structural issues during construction. Further, the project's proximity to Lalbagh, with its rich history, raises concerns. Given the history of major projects in India, it is doubtful whether 90% of the work site can be handed over without delays. The project seems to cater only to car owners who can afford the hefty toll of Rs 300, making it inaccessible to the general public. Instead of this ill-conceived project, the focus should be on introducing a well-planned public bus transport system that benefits the masses. It would be wise to abandon this project.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Star power not enough

The recent induction of singer Maithili Thakur into the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections highlights the trend of celebrity participation in politics. While Maithili Thakur is undoubtedly a talented artist, offering her a political seat based solely on her popularity seems unjustified and undemocratic. Politics is not a platform for fame, but a responsibility that requires governance and public service experience. Granting tickets to individuals without political or administrative experience undermines the efforts of grassroots workers who understand the complexities of governance. India's democracy thrives when merit, public policy understanding, and field experience determine leadership, not celebrity status or social media influence. Before contesting elections, Thakur should engage in party work at the ground level, understand citizens' issues, and prove her commitment to governance. Only then would her candidacy reflect the democratic spirit.

Vishal Mayur, Tumakuru

Get rid of potholes

The persistent debates about Bengaluru's potholed roads never seem to end. Despite repeated repairs costing hundreds of crores of public funds, these potholes appear and reappear. Unless those responsible are held accountable and concrete measures are taken, no improvements can be expected. Neighbouring states often cite this issue to lure industries away from Bengaluru, claiming better infrastructure. However, this should not be at the cost of Bengaluru's progress. As the technology hub of India, Bengaluru's importance in industry and allied establishments cannot be overstated. It is time for the authorities to take responsibility and find lasting solutions to this recurring problem.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

No worker in BJP gets angry... People who chant Bharat Mata ki Jai are not angry...

Nityanand Rai, Union Minister

I live in a constant state of hyperbole.

Eden Sher

TO BE PRECISE

Modi promised to stop buying oil from Russia, says Trump. GoI denies.

IN PERSPECTIVE

Quantum state and collective behaviour

The Nobel Prize for Physics recognises efforts that push boundaries of quantum mechanics to macroscopic scales

GAUTAM I MENON

Quantum mechanics, first formulated in the early 1900s, has never failed a test. An early success was understanding the behaviour of a single hydrogen atom in terms of its quantum states. But can a large number of particles display any kind of quantum mechanical behaviour that isn't just a feature of its units, taken one by one?

To get large numbers of particles to collectively display quantum mechanical behaviour requires that they be cooled to very low temperatures. In the right conditions, these particles can condense into a single quantum state. For collections of electrons in metals, such a state is a superconductor, in which a current can flow endlessly.

Superconductors (also superfluids) are examples of quantum mechanics operating at scales much larger than an atom – there's no size limit to the number of electrons in that single quantum state. The property of superposition is uniquely quantum mechanical. The quantum mechanical analogue of a 'bit', a quantity which takes only the basic values 0 and 1, is the 'qubit', any intermediate combination of these two basic states.

Superposition leads to apparent paradoxes when we consider large objects. Consider Schrodinger's cat. Could one come up with real experiments in which a cat – or the same number of atoms that might go into a cat – could exist in a superposition state of alive and dead?

Another quantum mechanical feature is that of tunnelling. A quantum particle can cross a nominally insurmountable barrier, 'tunnelling' through, simply because quantum mechanics allows quantum states to leak into such forbidden regions.

Specifying a quantum mechanical state of a collective of particles involves assigning an angle to that state, most straightforwardly thought of as a point along the circumference of a circle, moving around the circle and returning to its original position after a full rotation.

To understand the Nobel Prize-winning experiments, consider two superconductors separated from each other. Each has its own, independent 'quantum' angle. Now bring them together, with a tiny sliver of non-superconducting material between them. This is called a Josephson junction.

In the case of superconductors, electrons pair up to form Cooper pairs. These pairs condense into one quantum state, where they behave as if they were one single unit. While Cooper pairs live only within superconductors, tunnelling implies that superconductivity can also leak into regions that are not superconducting. As a result, a current can flow effortlessly across the Josephson junction, even without a voltage to drive particles across the junction.

When a voltage source is introduced into the circuit, the difference in angles on both sides of the junction changes steadily with time, driven by this voltage and described by the point going around the circle. A steady voltage leads to a current that goes up and down in time at a regular rate, predicted by quantum mechanics.

Testing at scale

The experiments that won the Nobel Prize were designed by UK-born John Clarke, then a young faculty member at the University of California at Berkeley, together with Michel Devoret, a French postdoc, and American PhD student John Martinis. It relies on applying a fixed current to a Josephson junction.

They started with the system in a zero-voltage state, but with current flowing through. This 'metastable state' is not what the system prefers to be in, but a barrier must be surmounted first. Quantum tunnelling enables the crossing of this barrier.

Clarke and his collaborators went to great lengths to isolate the purely quantum mechanical parts of the experiment. They measured how long the system stays in the zero-voltage state. They shone microwaves of different frequencies on their apparatus, exploring its quantised energies, providing precise tests of quantum mechanics at a scale much larger than that of atoms.

Josephson junctions, and devices built with them, allow for many tests of quantum mechanics. In particular, they allow us to test the robustness of the quantum state.

Making quantum computers and related devices requires that we understand quantum mechanical behaviour, and its robustness at a scale much larger than that of a single atom or molecule. The experiments of Clarke, Devoret and Martinis show precisely how quantum mechanics continues to work even at these scales. Because of them, we know that quantum mechanical states of multiple atoms large enough to constitute even a cat can exist. Everything we know about quantum mechanics applies here, too.

All this confirms the primacy of quantum mechanics as the defining theory of the physical world.

(The writer is Dean, Research, and Professor of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University)

When the numbers don't add up: Karnataka's flawed survey

SURABHI HODIGERE

Karnataka's Social and Educational Survey was conceived as an exercise in social justice. It is now revealing itself as a case study in administrative hubris. Across the state, thousands of enumerators have been trudging through villages and towns with malfunctioning devices and minimal preparation. Schools have been closed to free up teachers. In several districts, teachers have reported exhaustion, stress, and even tragedy: a 58-year-old teacher died of a heart attack reportedly while on duty. These failures reflect a deeper collapse of planning and purpose within the state. At their core lies the absence of institutional clarity about what this survey is, who is authorised to conduct it, and what purpose it serves.

The Karnataka government has tasked the Backward Classes Commission with conducting an all-caste survey – a move that, several legal experts argue, exceeds its mandate under law. Section 9(1)(i) and (ii) of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1995, empowers the Commission to study the social and educational conditions of the Backward Classes and to conduct surveys only for that purpose. It does not authorise the enumeration of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or the General Category. This position has also been raised in recent petitions before the Karnataka High Court, which noted that the Commission's powers do not extend to an all-caste survey.

The irony is that the survey claims to serve the very groups it risks undermining. A government committed to social justice would strengthen institutions, not stretch their limits. The previous BJP government, through the Madhuswamy Committee, dealt with the question of internal reservations through a structured process. The present one appears to be acting without a firm legal anchor or institutional discipline. What may seem procedural in bureaucratic terms carries profound implications for justice and representation.

If the legal foundation of the survey is uncertain, its political origins are even more telling. It strains belief that Karnataka cannot locate the report of its own 2015 survey. The Kantharaj Commission's massive survey, covering over 1.3 crore households and costing more than Rs 160 crore, was never tabled. The original report is no longer traceable. The Hegde Commission in 2023 submitted a reconstructed version using partial data. The Congress government has treated this institutional amnesia as routine -- announcing new surveys while quietly burying the old.

The decision to order a fresh survey appears to have originated not within the state cabinet or policy machinery but from the Congress high command. The announcement was made in Delhi by party general secretary Randeep Surjewala, in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. This sequence of events raises questions about where authority truly lies. Having failed to conduct a national caste census while in power at the Centre, the Congress now seeks to reclaim the social justice narrative through a state-level exercise that lacks administrative and legal clarity.

Even within the government, confusion has been apparent. Ministers have issued contradictory statements, officials have complained of shifting instructions, and the process of verification lacks clarity. The survey design itself compounds the problem. Respondents are asked to write in their caste without reference to an approved list or coding framework, producing inconsistent or non-existent identities. Reports from the field mention entries such as "Brahmin Christian" or "Lingayat Christian", which have no recognition in law or welfare policy. Unless there is a clear process to verify and classify such data, the exercise risks producing numbers that are neither reliable nor useful. By confusing recognition with representation, the government risks turning social justice into an instrument of political convenience. Karnataka's reservation system is built on statutory lists that define eligibility with precision.

Implementation of this survey has been equally disorderly. The government initially announced that enumeration would end by October 7, but the deadline has since been extended to October 18, with further delays expected in some districts. In Belagavi, teachers have protested the deployment of pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and those nearing retirement. Yet the government insists that the exercise is on schedule and that "minor technical issues" are being resolved.

Although the Karnataka HC has clarified that participation in the survey is voluntary and that enumerators cannot pressure anyone to respond, field reports suggest that performance targets are influencing enumerator behaviour. The questionnaire itself appears poorly designed, with intrusive and inconsistently worded questions varying across districts, raising doubts about comparability and data integrity. D K Shivakumar has also publicly advised enumerators to "avoid asking personal questions", further indicating administrative confusion.

A survey launched without clear constitutional backing, executed without administrative capacity or clarity, and pursued without internal coherence cannot command public trust. What began as a promise of social justice now risks being seen as a politically driven exercise.

If caste enumeration is to serve equity, it must be done with credibility, legality and transparency. That calls for a national caste census, conducted transparently under the authority of the Union government, rather than fragmented state-level efforts driven by electoral or partisan considerations. The Karnataka exercise offers a cautionary tale: when data collection becomes a substitute for governance, even a cause as vital as social justice can be reduced to political theatre.

(The writer is a spokesperson for the BJP in Karnataka and a public policy professional)

Once consumed mainly in small, formal tea ceremonies, matcha is now mixed into fruity lattes and preyed on by counterfeiters. Can it survive its own popularity?

PETE WELLS

Matcha drinks at Matchaful cafes, which are whisked by hand in New York. THE NEW YORK TIMES

The matcha market cracks under pressure

Over four centuries, Japan built a tradition of drinking matcha that was based on four principles: *wa, kei, sei* and *jaku*, or harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. It took just a few years for a worldwide matcha craze to upend those values and replace them with disharmony, disrespect, impurity and fraud.

Highly respected Japanese firms are at war with scores of vendors who resell their matcha far above the normal retail price on Amazon, Facebook Marketplace and other sites.

Others are hawking the tea trade's equivalent of $45 Chanel bags, counterfeit packages filled with third-rate product or with ordinary tea ground to a dull yellow dust.

Tea companies that have built their reputations over centuries are in despair. Marukyu Koyamaen, founded by Kyujiro Koyama in 1704, has been taking action against counterfeiters for eight years, fighting them in court and making its packages more difficult to copy.

Some of the fakes are filled with "low-quality powdered green tea," Motoya Koyama, the company's president and a direct descendant of the founder, said in an email interview. "It would be definitely a great harm to us if those customers who purchased these counterfeit products think that they are produced by Marukyu Koyamaen."

Other practices, while not as deceptive, are wildly untraditional. Green lattes and smoothies are prepared with shortcuts (batched concentrate nicknamed *batcha*) and flavourings (banana bread!) that send ripples of horror down the spines of matcha purists. Baristas inhale so much airborne green powder that they joke about coming down with matcha lung.

"It's like the Wild West because there are so many unknowns and so many new contenders in the game," said Sebastian Beckwith, an importer whose company, In Pursuit of Tea, has offered matcha for more than 20 years.

Matcha, in its most traditional and prized form, is tea that is shielded from the sun for several weeks before it is picked, steamed and ground to a powder between granite millstones. The process is painstaking. The number of people in Japan for whom it is an everyday drink has never been large. About 80% of the tea grown in the country is sencha, a whole-leaf green variety. Matcha's share is about 6%. It is very much a niche product.

In the past five years, it has become more popular abroad than it is at home, rocketing to stardom on TikTok and displacing coffee on cafe menus. Japan now exports more than half the matcha it grows. According to the market research firm NIQ, retail sales of matcha in the United States grew by 86% over the past three years.

Wholesalers are fielding requests from coffee shops in Warsaw, Poland, and in Kazakhstan. Retailers sell out of new shipments in minutes. With demand streaking ahead of the limited supply, all kinds of shady practices have crept into the gulf.

Matcha labelling is almost completely unregulated, making it easier for less scrupulous operators to pass off second- and third-tier products as premium stuff. Previously unknown classifications, like imperial grade and barista grade, are popping up. Even "ceremonial grade," which is widely used outside Japan, is an invention of American marketers with no formal definition.

The word matcha itself is open to interpretation these days. Although matcha is historically associated with Japan, powdered tea sold under that name is now made in Australia, Kenya and other countries. Starbucks buys its matcha from China and South Korea as well as Japan.

There is brown matcha, black matcha and white matcha, in addition to old-fashioned matcha in the vibrant green colour of a tree frog. Some of these products were on display at the North American Tea Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, last month.

"There were a lot of different coloured matchas, and this is an issue for a lot of companies that make matcha," said Rona Tison, tea ambassador for a Japanese firm, Ito En, who attended the event. "There are no regulatory guidelines."

You'd never know there was a shortage on the streets of Los Angeles, Washington and London. Starbucks, which reported a 40% year-over-year increase in matcha sales for the first quarter of 2025, introduced a new line of protein drinks in September that includes three flavours of matcha. This summer, Blank Street Coffee rolled out a visual rebrand so drenched in foamy green that Fast Company called it "full-on matchacore." In the process, Blank Street, an international chain, dropped Coffee from its name, and for good reason. Matcha drinks now outnumber coffee drinks on the menu and make up about half the company's business, according to The Wall Street Journal.

In downtown Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn, it's hard to round a corner without tripping over an A-frame sidewalk board advertising tiramisu matcha lattes, vanilla matcha fogs or spinach-fortified Mega Matcha smoothies.

This month in Brooklyn, Kettl, a Japanese tea dealer, plans to open a store devoted to matcha appreciation, with canisters for sale in front and guided tastings behind sliding doors in the back. The shop, Kettl Matcha Sen Mon Ten, is meant to offer a bit of counterprogramming, showing a side of matcha that isn't deeply explored on TikTok.

"It's an artisan product like wine, and I wanted to have a space focused on that," said Zach Mangan, Kettl's founder.

To understand why farmers cannot simply keep all the overnight converts happy by tripling production, it's useful to remember that the most coveted matcha is milled from the first harvest of spring, when the leaves are sweetest.

"There's really a supply shortage of first flush," said Hannah Habes, founder of Matchaful, a New York-based retailer and wholesaler. According to Habes, first-flush matcha grown by a single farmer is the foundation of most of the lattes and other drinks sold at the seven Matchaful cafés. Buying directly from the producer or from well-established retailers is the best way to get what you're paying for, tea experts say.

There is never as much of this first-flush tea as there is matcha from the second and third harvests, which tends to be more bitter and astringent. It's typically labelled "culinary grade."

Culinary-grade matcha is suited for chocolates, brownies and sweet, milky drinks. Tea connoisseurs feel strongly that the finer grades are wasted in lattes and smoothies.

"Using that in a latte is like using red Burgundy to make sangria," Mangan said.

Adulterating high-grade products with fruit, honey and other sweeteners is more than a waste of good matcha, Koyama said. It also contributes to shortages that have made it difficult to stage tea ceremonies, or *chado*, a cornerstone of traditional Japanese culture.

A more accurate translation of *chado* is "the way of tea," and understanding the rituals of preparing and serving it is a lifelong pursuit, said Ann Abe, chief of administration at Urasenke Los Angeles, a nonprofit cultural group devoted to the tea ceremony.

"Being third generation Japanese American, to learn about the culture is fascinating, and I'm still learning," Abe said. She studied *chado* under influential teacher Sosei Matsumoto, who stressed the importance of never wasting any of the powdered tea. Abe has mixed feelings about matcha's modern ubiquity outside Japan.

"It's nice to see an interest," she said. "However, I don't think most people understand or realize what's behind a bowl of tea."

For Tison, who grew up in Japan and whose great-grandmother was a tea ceremony instructor, the sudden global thirst for this esoteric drink is still hard to fathom.

"I would never have foreseen it," she said. "Whoever would have thought?"

The New York Times

Reimagining higher education

ABHAY G CHEBBI

India's higher education system stands at a transformative crossroads where national aspirations meet global expectations. With over 1,100 universities and 40 million students, the challenge today is not access but excellence—achieving self-reliance, innovation, and employability at a global standard.

The India Skills Report 2025 offers a mixed picture: Kerala records an employability rate of 90.94%, but many states lag behind, exposing deep disparities in academic quality and skill preparedness. Bridging these divides is essential if India is to emerge as a true knowledge superpower.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is India's most ambitious education reform yet, urging universities to blend Indian ethos with global competitiveness. Complementing it, the National Research Foundation (NRF) seeks to build a vibrant research ecosystem and make India an international hub for innovation and intellectual property.

Yet, challenges persist. According to the Economic Survey 2023-2024, India's R&D spending is just 0.64% of its gross domestic product -- far below China's 2.4% and the United States' 3.5%. Only 36% of India's research funding comes from the private sector, compared with around 75% in the US and China. This imbalance highlights the need for stronger academia-industry-government links.

While leading private universities can nurture innovators up to Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) -- and even product manufacturing – India's scale demands a broader framework. Each state should establish an Innovation Council comprising academia, industry, and government to evaluate student ideas, set benchmarks, and link innovators to venture capital and manufacturing networks. Such councils would speed India's transition from lab to market, ensuring creativity finds real-world expression through mentorship, funding, and go-to-market strategies.

Self-reliance in education is not isolation; it is confidence -- the ability to produce globally competent graduates while staying rooted in local contexts. Digital technology will be central to this shift. Initiatives like SWAYAM, NPTEL, and UGC-approved online degrees have already democratised learning. As India advances towards the 6G revolution, online and blended learning must reach every learner. Regulations should encourage quality while ensuring affordability. Backed by public schemes and institutional partnerships, this digital infrastructure can make higher education truly inclusive -- ensuring that no learner is left behind.

Self-reliance must go hand-in-hand with inclusivity. Universities should be required to offer merit-cum-need-based scholarships to support promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Employability remains the Achilles heel of Indian higher education. Outdated curricula and weak industry linkages leave many graduates ill-equipped for modern workplaces. A National Talent Pipeline Consortium -- bringing together academia, government, and industry -- could develop standardised, future-ready curricula.

Leading companies could help define baseline competencies in AI, data analytics, sustainable manufacturing, and emerging technologies. Universities could then customise 20–30% of the curriculum to suit local needs. The Entrepreneurship Mindset Course (EMC) launched by the Punjab government is an excellent example. Targeting five lakh students by 2028-2029, it integrates entrepreneurial thinking with practical business skills.

Beyond coursework, universities should foster AI-integrated, interdisciplinary learning, where social sciences intersect with technology and ethics. This will produce graduates who are not only technically skilled but also empathetic and globally aware.

The next leap must come from embedding apprenticeship-based and cooperative education (co-op) models within degree structures. The government, through NIRF and accreditation frameworks, could reward universities that institutionalise co-op programmes where students alternate between academic study and industry engagement. This model, long practised in Canada and Germany, allows students to gain hands-on experience while earning credits.

India's rise as a global knowledge power will depend not merely on the number of universities it has, but on how effectively they nurture innovation, employability, and inclusion. The vision ahead is clear: an education system that is self-sufficient but globally connected, digitally empowered yet deeply human, and research-driven yet socially rooted.

(The writer is Pro-Chancellor, Alliance University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Kissinger found Nixon unpleasant

Washington, October 16
Secretary of State Henry Kissinger revealed at a banquet in Ottawa on Tuesday night that former President Richard Nixon was an "old, artificial and unpleasant man", the Washington Post reported today. Dr. Kissinger's comments at the banquet in his honour by the Canadian Foreign Minister, Mr. Allan Maceachen, were picked up by a microphone which had been installed to transmit his after-dinner speech to journalists not invited to the banquet.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Veerappan sets free one more hostage

Bangalore, Oct 16
The Rajkumar kidnap crisis took another strange twist today with forest bandit Veerappan releasing one hostage, Mr S A Govindaraju, son-in-law of Kannada film star Dr Rajkumar, upsetting government calculations that the actor himself would be freed either tonight or tomorrow. Official sources here told Deccan Herald that Govindaraju, who had reached Erode tonight, was on his way to Bangalore and would be arriving in the city tomorrow morning.

OASIS | ROHINI S MURTHY

Discovering true spirituality

'What is spirituality, Amma?' my 15-year-old son asked me recently. This was probably the most complex question someone had ever asked me. According to me, there is no single definition that can sum up the meaning of spirituality. For some, spirituality can be synonymous with religiousity, while for others it could be independent of religion. Its interpretation depends upon the individual's beliefs, context or personal experiences. Since I didn't want to diminish my son's interest in this topic, I tried to decipher spirituality by narrating a true story.

I recently read somewhere that 'through the power of prayer, faith, love and gratitude, things have a way of working out.' My school friend Rajeshwari's life reflects this quote perfectly. We revived our friendship after a gap of almost three decades. Since our first meeting as adults, she struck me as someone who is extremely humble and pious. Festivals brought out an inner child in her as she excitedly prepared for them weeks in advance. Any festival, be it big or small, she celebrates it with much devotion, earnestly praying for the well-being of not just her family members but for anyone who is unhappy. 'The number of people on your prayer list is getting lengthier by the day,' I teased her once. She smiled and said, "Praying gives me joy because I am assimilating all the positive thoughts with a hope that it will change someone else's life."

It's not that her life is sans difficulties, but she chooses to seek little joys from mundane things instead of cursing her fate or wallowing in self-pity. Be it cooking, visiting a temple or lending a helping hand to the needy, she exemplifies that practising gratitude and mindfulness can enhance overall well-being.

The power of prayer is central to her existence. It is not merely a communion with the divine, but she firmly believes that prayer helps her in focusing the mind and finding a sense of peace and comfort that helps her navigate through life's difficulties.

In many ways, she personifies Vivekananda's answer to the question, 'What do you gain by prayer?' He had famously said, 'I gained nothing. In fact, I lost anger, irritation, insecurity and jealousy'.

After getting a brief glimpse into Rajeshwari's life, my son's understanding of spirituality is – 'Someone who is good-natured, kind and compassionate and believes in bringing comfort and healing to others.' His interpretation of spirituality made me wish for more people like Rajeshwari in this world.

DAY OF JITTERS: Phone calls, postponed press conferences and a handwritten plea to Rahul

I.N.D.I.A seat drama ends as VIP stays with bloc

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc appeared to have clinched its seat-sharing deal for the Bihar Assembly elections on Thursday evening, a day marked by high drama, with Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) initially indicating that it might exit the alliance. The move prompted frantic interventions, with top leaders working the phone lines between Delhi and Patna.

Sources said the RJD and VIP have reached an agreement, with Sahani's party set to contest 15 Assembly seats and receive one MLC position. Sahani had initially demanded 60 seats and the Deputy Chief Minister post, but later scaled down his demand to 30. However, an official announcement is pending as some parties are undecided on the seats to contest.

Tensions rose through the morning as the VIP scheduled a press conference and Sahani hinted he might explore other options, with RJD not giving any signals. The press meet was postponed three times after CPI(ML)L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya reached out to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and an RJD manager.

Sahani had initially planned the press conference for 10 am, rescheduled it to 12 noon, then to 6 pm, which eventually did not happen. RJD Bihar chief Mangani Lal Mandal said, "Everything is fine. We haven't heard that Sahani is angry. He has accepted everything, so what's there to be angry about?"

As Bhattacharya told Rahul and the RJD leadership that VIP's exit would be politically prudent, sources said Sahani sent a handwritten letter to Rahul expressing his desire to fight "communal and divisive" forces and his eagerness to remain part of the alliance without any constraints on the number of seats.

He also sought Rahul's intervention, citing urgency and requesting an "opportunity to continue with the I.N.D.I.A alliance". In the letter, he reportedly mentioned that he was initially promised 35 seats, which was later reduced to 25 and then to 18.

Sources said Sahani informed alliance leaders that media reports are suggesting he is not participating in seat negotiations. He clarified that the issue is not about numbers and that he is "ready to go with any number".

Bhattacharya, sources said, was keen for VIP to stay in the coalition, as the bloc needed the maximum possible representation. He reached out to Rahul, who was to speak with Tejashwi Yadav. There was no confirmation of any conversation between the two leaders.

Sources said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul and party General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal held a meeting during the day, where the issue is believed to have been discussed.

BIHAR VOTES

DEAL DONE

- Sahani's VIP to contest 15 seats and get one MLC post
- Sahani scales down demand from 60 seats and DyCM post to 30
- Dipankar Bhattacharya reaches out to Rahul Gandhi to retain VIP
- Sahani sends handwritten letter to Rahul

Supporters with their bodies painted take part in the nomination rally of Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary from Tarapur Assembly constituency, in Munger, on Thursday. PTI

ALLIANCE WATCH

- JD(U) announces all its 101 candidates
- Fields 22 upper castes, 37 OBCs, 22 EBCs and 4 muslim candidates
- Almost all JD(U) ministers have retained their seats
- Kushwaha's RLM releases list of all 6 nominees
- RLM chief's wife Snehlata to contest from Sasaram

Opposition may allot seats to new kid on the Bihar block

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In its efforts to mobilise small caste groups to create a rainbow social coalition against the NDA in the upcoming Bihar polls, the I.N.D.I.A bloc is keen to allocate two seats to a party formed less than six months ago.

The Indian Inclusive Party (IIP), led by IP Gupta, could get two seats from the Congress quota. Gutpa is a former engineer who entered politics by organising a massive show of strength in Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan in April, holding a rally of the Tanti-Tatwa and Pan communities.

These caste groups are spread across northern India. Their numbers are relatively higher in eastern Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha. Like the Devangas in the south, Tanti-Tatwa and Pan are traditionally engaged in weaving and cloth trading.

The IIP's April rally in Patna was triggered by the Supreme Court decision earlier this year, invalidating the Bihar government's 2015 order to shift the Tanti-Tatwa-Pan communities from Extremely Backward Caste (EBC) to the Schedule Caste list. At the time of the implementation of the Mandal Commission Report in Bihar in 1992, these communities were accommodated in the Extremely Backward Caste list.

To press for the restoration of their SC status, the Pan-Tanti Mahasabha, in the Patna rally in April, announced the formation of the Indian Inqalab Party.

"It was later rechristened the Indian Inclusive Party, as the poll body said Inqalab was being used by many other outfits," Gupta said.

Congress releases first list of 48 candidates

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Thursday night announced its first list of 48 candidates, including 24 for the first phase, for the Bihar Assembly elections, with state party chief Rajesh Ram and legislature party leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan figuring in the list.

Although an official announcement on the seat-sharing arrangement is pending, Congress is likely to contest in 59 seats, allocating two more from its quota to the India Inclusive Party. Of the 48 candidates so far named, five are women, while four are Muslims.

Ram will be fighting from Kutumba to retain his seat, while Khan is fielded from Kadwa. The party has fielded Bihar Youth Congress president Shiv Prakash Garib Das from Bacchwara, from where I.N.D.I.A ally CPI has announced the candidature of Abdesh Kumar Rai, who lost the seat by just 737 votes in 2020.

Congress has also fielded Kaushlendra Kumar 'Chote Mukhiya' from Nalanda, where he had come second on a Jantantrik Vikas Party ticket in 2020, pushing the Congress to the third position. In 2020, it contested 70 seats but won only 19.

SC asks EC to rectify errors in final poll roll

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it expected the Election Commission (EC) would look into typographical errors and other mistakes in the final Bihar electoral rolls prepared after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) as a responsible authority and come up with remedial measures.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said the EC knew its responsibility, and would publish the final roll after deletion and addition.

The court said it would hear on November 4 the legal issues regarding the Bihar SIR.

The EC said that since its publication of the final electoral rolls on September 30, not a single appeal had been filed by any voter against name deletion.

It claimed the Bihar SIR was "accurate", and that the petitioner political parties and NGOs are merely content with making "false allegations" to discredit the exercise.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for the NGO Association of Democratic Reforms, said details of a voter claiming his name was not added in the final list, which the EC claimed was fake in the previous hearing, were true.

He said the EC should disclose how many voters were deleted and for what reason, to ensure transparency in the exercise.

The bench noted that the electoral rolls would be frozen on October 17 in some constituencies that were going to polls in the first phase and on October 20 for those going to polls in second phase.

The court earlier asked the Bihar State Legal Service Authority to issue directions to its district-level bodies to assist 3.66 lakh voters, excluded from the final electoral rolls, file appeals with the EC.

On September 30, the EC, while publishing the final electoral list for poll-bound Bihar, said the total number of electors had come down by nearly 47 lakh to 7.42 crore.

The final figure, however, increased 17.87 lakh from 7.24 crore electors named in the draft list issued on August 1, which removed 65 lakh voters from the original list on various accounts.

Chirag's LJP releases candidate list

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) on Thursday released its list of candidates for all 29 seats. Party president Chirag Paswan, who succeeded in increasing his seat share within the NDA, urged candidates to ensure victory.

"You will ensure the historic win of the double-engine NDA government by realising the resolve of 'Bihar First, Bihari First'," he said. The list includes six women and one Muslim candidate.

Bihar state president Raju Tiwari has been fielded from Govindganj, and Hulas Pandey from Brahmpur — two seats Chirag had sought from the BJP.

Other candidates include Seema Singh, Sanjay Kumar Singh (Simri Bakhtiyarpur), Vishnu Dev Paswan (Daraul), Simant Mrinal (Garkha), Surendra Kumar (Sahebpur Kamal) and Babulal Saurya (Parbatta).

The BJP also released its second and third lists on Wednesday. The third list of the BJP, containing 18 names includes Sanjay Pandey from Narkatiaganj, Satish Kumar Yadav (Raghopur), Bharat Bind (Bhabua), Murari Paswan (Pirpainti reserved seat) and Ashok Kumar Singh (Ramgarh).

It also released a list of its star campaigners, which includes Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Chouhan, Yogi Adityanath, PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, party president JP Nadda, among others.

Tejashwi's olive branch: Kin of Tej Pratap's ex-wife gets ticket from Parsa

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Mahagathbandhan has not yet formally announced its full list of candidates, but the RJD is allotting symbols ahead of the October 17 nomination deadline for the first phase of elections on November 6.

Karishma Rai, a dentist and cousin of Tej Pratap Yadav's estranged wife Aishwarya Rai, will contest from Parsa in Saran district.

Her grandfather Daroga Prasad Rai was elected Congress MLA from Parsa in 1952 and became Bihar chief minister in 1970.

Aishwarya's father Chandrika Rai first won from Parsa in 1985 as a Congress candidate and retained the seat in 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2015 as an RJD candidate, before losing in 2020. His ties with Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi soured after Aishwarya filed for divorce from Tej Pratap and accused Rabri of domestic violence.

Tejashwi has offered a conciliatory gesture to the Rai family by fielding Karishma as the RJD candidate, hoping to mend ties.

The olive branch suits the Rai family, especially after Lalu expelled his son Tej Pratap from both the party and the family. Tej Pratap is contesting from Mahua in Vaishali as an Independent.

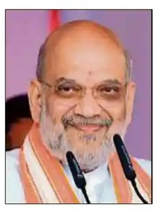
"Karishma will take on Chhotelal Rai of the JD(U), who earlier represented the RJD but switched sides to join Nitish Kumar," said Bhola Yadav, a close aide of Lalu.

Poll diary

'Bihar on path of prosperity'

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who filed his nomination papers from the Tarapur assembly seat in Munger district as a BJP nominee on Thursday, asserted that the ruling NDA has taken the state to the path of prosperity. The people have seen the development work under the NDA rule in the state, Choudhary said.

Shah arrives in Patna on 3-day visit



Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Patna on a three-day visit to poll-bound Bihar on Thursday, during which he is likely to hold discussions on the BJP's organisation, meet leaders of alliance partners and address a few public meetings, a party leader said. Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal received Shah at Jay Prakash Narayan Airport.

Female officers for burqa-clad women

Taking a cue from the directions issued 21 years ago by then Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan, the Election Commission has directed poll officials in Bihar to ensure that women polling officers are deployed at polling stations to assist in identifying women wearing ghoongat (veil) and burqa.

Tej Pratap files nomination

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav, who filed his nomination papers from the Mahua seat on Thursday as a Janshakti Janta Dal nominee, declared that he has movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2.88 crore, marginally up from the value of his properties disclosed five years ago. He is also facing eight pending cases.

Rahul Gandhi to meet Zubeen's family today

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Amid efforts by the Opposition parties to corner the BJP in Assam over the investigation into Zubeen Garg's death, the Congress on Thursday said Rahul Gandhi will meet the iconic singer's family in Guwahati on Friday.

Gandhi is also scheduled to pay his tributes to Zubeen at Sonapur in the city's outskirts, where the singer was cremated on September 23.

The Opposition parties, including Congress, have been demanding that the probe be handed over to the CBI.

An SIT team from the Assam CID has been investigating the case.

Reacting to Gandhi's visit, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said, "He is coming after 28 days of the incident but I still welcome him. We expected a senior leader of the Congress, be it Rahul Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi, to attend Zubeen's cremation, but they didn't come."

India in active dialogue for trade pact with US, EU, Oman: Goyal

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India is in active dialogue for free trade agreements with nations including the US, Oman, and the EU.

"We have done free trade agreements (FTAs) with many developed countries in the last three years...We are in active dialogue with the US, EU, Chile, Peru, New Zealand, and Oman," the minister told reporters here.

India has implemented trade pacts with Australia, the UAE and the EFTA bloc. It has also signed a deal with the UK.

Goyal said with Brazil also, he has discussed expanding preferential trade agreements from its current level so that "we can" in the future penetrate the South American market in a bigger way.

"It clearly shows that India is the favoured and preferred destination both for investment and for bilateral trade," Goyal said.

India and Brazil are looking to broaden their preferential trade agreement (PTA) and are eyeing a bilateral trade target of $20 billion by 2030, up from $12 billion in 2024.

The Indian official team is in Washington at present to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The team will be there till October 17.

Omar renews call for J&K statehood

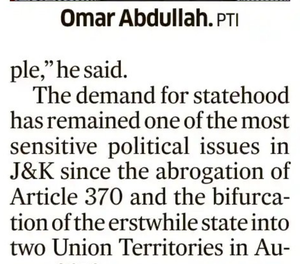
ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Exactly a year after taking oath as Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the people had expected the assurance to be honoured within the first year of his government.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar to mark the first anniversary of the National Conference (NC) government, Omar said that while his administration had stayed true to its electoral commitments, the Centre had yet to deliver on its pledge to reverse the Union Territory status imposed in 2019.

"We were hopeful that the Centre would restore statehood within the first year of our government, but it has not happened," Omar said. "I once again appeal to the Prime Minister and his team to fulfil the promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Chief Minister said his government had already formalised its demand through a resolution passed in the Assembly, underscoring the political consensus in the region on restoring full statehood. "This isn't just a political slogan — it's a sentiment deeply rooted in the hearts of the people," he said.



Omar Abdullah. PTI

The demand for statehood has remained one of the most sensitive political issues in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in August 2019.

The Union government has repeatedly stated that statehood will be restored "at an appropriate time" but has avoided setting a timeline.

Omar's renewed appeal is seen as a calculated reminder to New Delhi that the issue continues to dominate public discourse despite the return of an elected government. Analysts say the statement also seeks to reassure voters that the NC remains firm on its foundational promise.

Defending his government's performance, Omar said the NC administration was working for the "betterment of the people" and asked the public to judge it at the end of its five-year term. "People have started raising questions, but I request them to evaluate us after our full term," he said.

PDP offers conditional support in Rajya Sabha polls

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday said its support to the National Conference (NC) in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections will hinge on the ruling party's backing for two crucial legislative proposals — the Land Rights & Regularisation Bill, 2025 and the Regularisation of Daily Wagers Bill — moved by the PDP in the Assembly.

The Land Rights & Regularisation Bill, described by PDP leaders as an "anti-bulldozer law," seeks to protect long-time occupants of state and grazing lands (gasscharayi) from eviction and grant them ownership rights. The Regularisation of Daily Wagers Bill aims to provide job security and benefits to thousands of contractual and daily wage employees working across government departments — an unresolved issue for years in Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said Farooq Abdullah had personally reached out to her seeking support for the RS candidates.

ECO-LEADER

Indian conservationist is first Asian chair of IUCN panel

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a major achievement for India, noted conservationist Vivek Menon has been elected the new chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC).

Menon, the executive director of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), is the first Asian to occupy the IUCN SSC chair in its 75-year history.

The announcement was made during the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Abu Dhabi.

"My goal is to strengthen the SSC into a more resilient, inclusive, and globally impactful network that drives action and shapes policy. I believe in the power of this global network of over 11,000 experts, united by a shared passion for life on Earth, and as Chair, I will lead it with integrity, transparency, and dedication," said Menon.

Vivek Menon, founder of WTI, in Meghalaya's Garo Hills.

The SSC plays a crucial role in the IUCN's mission by assessing the conservation status of species — including through the IUCN Red List — shaping conservation policy, and implementing species recovery initiatives.

A leading Indian wildlife conservationist, environmental commentator, author and photographer with a passion for elephants, Menon is a conservation leader whose lifelong dedication has created positive, global change for wildlife and natural habitats.

An accomplished writer and photographer, Menon has authored 10 wildlife books, including the best-selling "Indian Mammals: A Field Guide" — the first of its kind by an Indian author in post-Independence India.

Through expert guidance to premier organisations, participation in landmark initiatives, and training of enforcement personnel across more than 50 countries, Menon has advanced solutions to critical challenges like illegal wildlife trade and species protection.

His impact stretches from establishing reserves in Myanmar to helping shape international conservation policies through active roles in Cites, Unesco, and national advisory boards.

Shah seeks 'ruthless' action against fugitives

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Advocating a "ruthless" approach against fugitives hiding abroad, Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday suggested that passports be cancelled upon the issuance of a Red Corner Notice against an individual, while also urging that the 'trial in absentia' provision in law be invoked more frequently.

Amit Shah

He further proposed that special jails or cells conforming to international standards be established in all states for lodging fugitives, so they cannot use poor prison conditions as an argument in foreign courts to block their deportation. Shah, however, disagreed with the view that Indian prisons fail to meet human rights norms.

Addressing a conference on Extradition of Fugitives – Challenges and Strategies, the Home Minister said there should be "zero tolerance" not only towards corruption, crime, and terrorism, but also towards criminals operating from outside India.

"Whether they are economic offenders, cyber criminals, those involved in terrorist activities, or part of organised crime networks, a ruthless approach must be adopted. A time-bound mechanism should be put in place for every fugitive to ensure they are brought before Indian justice system," he said.

Shah urged all states and agencies to prepare a database of fugitives, detailing their cases, networks, and whereabouts. He also called for setting up focus groups in every state to deal with narco-criminals, gangsters, cyber-criminals, economic offenders, and individuals linked to terrorism.

An expert special cell with knowledge of international law and expertise in handling fugitive cases also needs to be created, he added.

Shah emphasised the importance of conducting 'trial in absentia' for fugitives, noting that court proceedings and convictions would strengthen efforts to secure their custody from other countries.

Suggesting a built-in mechanism to flag passports when a Red Corner Notice is issued, Shah said such passports could be seized or cancelled. "We can prevent such people from flying out of India," he added.

Rajnath sets Rs 3L cr defence production target by 2029

MUMBAI, DHNS: India has set the target of Rs 3 lakh crore in defence manufacturing and Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said.

"This in itself is a very ambitious vision, but I am confident that we will definitely realise this vision," he told students in Pune.

"In the last 10 years, annual defence production has increased from Rs 46,000 crore to a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore, of which approximately Rs 33,000 crore has been contributed by the private sector," said Singh.

"Today, we need youth who are not only educated but also understand indigenous technology, create it, and advance it," he added.

Highlighting the importance of skill development, he said, "We are no longer in the era of 'What do you know?'. The world now asks, 'What can you do?' Knowledge that cannot be applied is incomplete. Skill is the bridge between learning and doing."

He said Operation Sindoor was a glowing testimony to India's growing indigenous prowess, which was a result of the efforts to create a self-reliant defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Telangana to lift two-child cap for local body polls

HYDERABAD, PTI: The Telangana Cabinet on Thursday in principle decided to lift the rule disqualifying candidates with more than two children from contesting local body polls.

In a media briefing after the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Revenue Minister P Srinivas Reddy said the government decided to organise 'Praja Palana–Praja Vijayotsavam' celebrations in the state on the occasion of the completion of two-years of Congress government, from December 1 to 9.

"At a time when population control measures are strictly being implemented, the two children ban need not be enforced. These kinds of opinions were expressed in the cabinet meeting. So, accordingly, the cabinet in principle agreed to lift the ban," the minister said.

ENERGY FAULTLINE: India calls for end to 'double standards'

UK sanctions Gujarat refinery for buying oil from Russia

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The United Kingdom has joined the United States in ramping up pressure on India to reduce oil imports from Russia.

Just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted his UK counterpart Keir Starmer in Mumbai, London imposed sanctions on a refinery in India for importing 100 million barrels of crude oil worth more than $5 billion in 2024.

The UK sanctions targeted Nayara Energy Limited's refinery in Vadinar in Gujarat, which is partly owned by Russia's Rosneft.

"We have noted the latest sanctions announced by the UK. India does not subscribe to any unilateral sanctions," Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Thursday.

"The government of India considers the provision of energy security a responsibility of paramount importance to meet the basic needs of its citizens," he added.

Further, Jaiswal said Indian firms sourced energy supplies from around the world, while taking overall market conditions into account. "We would stress that there should be no double standards, especially when it comes to energy trade."

The European Union had also imposed sanctions on the refinery in July this year.

The moves by the EU and the UK government are intended to curb the flow of revenues for Moscow from refined petroleum products made in a third country from Russian crude oil.

PRESSURE TACTIC

- Move comes days after UK PM's India visit
- Sanctioned refinery is partly owned by Russia's Rosneft
- Earlier EU had slapped sanctions on this refinery
- Sanctions aim to curb revenue for Moscow
- Ministry highlighted EU had more trade with Russia in 2024 than India

Despite drawing flak from the US and the rest of the West, India continued to increase its imports of crude oil from Russia after the launch of the war in Ukraine, circumventing sanctions on the former Soviet Union nation and arguing that its move, in fact, was helping lessen the volatility in the global energy market.

New Delhi had earlier pointed out that the European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of Euro 67.5 billion in goods with Russia. In addition, it had trade in services estimated at Euro 17.2 billion in 2023.

The EU trade volume with Russia was significantly more than India's total trade that year or subsequently. Europe's imports of LNG from Russia in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 million tonnes, surpassing the last record of 15.21 million tonnes in 2022.

Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment, the ministry had argued earlier.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks with PM Narendra Modi in Mumbai on October 9. AFP FILE

India's oil ties in national interest: Russian envoy

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's energy cooperation with Russia is in sync with its national interest, Moscow's envoy Denis Alipov said on Thursday, after US President Donald Trump claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to reduce oil imports from Russia.

China also warned of countermeasures in a strong reaction to the US president's comment that Beijing should also be made to cut down its oil imports from Russia.

Alipov refrained from commenting on Trump's claim that Modi had assured a reduction in oil imports from Russia. However, he said that Russian crude remained the most "cost-effective option" in the global market.

He added that New Delhi was handling the 'matter' with India's national interests in mind. "Our cooperation in the energy sector is very much in tune with those interests," he said.

"Russian energy remains the most cost-effective option on the global market, and Russia has consistently honoured its commitments while showing flexibility in developing alternative logistics and payment systems in the face of attempts to disrupt this cooperation," the Russian envoy said.

He said the India-Russia strategic partnership was a "stabilising force" in global affairs and a powerful driver of economic growth.

Trump and his aides have accused India and China of helping Russia continue its war in Ukraine by buying oil.

'Frightened of Trump': Rahul needles Modi over US remarks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the prime minister, claiming he was "frightened of Trump", as the US President claimed Narendra Modi had assured him that India would stop buying Russian oil.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said it appeared that Modi was outsourcing key decisions to the US, and that the "56-inch chest has shrunk and shrivelled".

Targeting the PM, Rahul said Modi had allowed Trump to "decide and announce" that India would not buy Russian oil.

"PM Modi is frightened of Trump. 1) Allows Trump to decide and announce that India will not buy Russian oil. 2) Keeps sending congratulatory messages despite repeated snubs. 3) Cancelled the Finance Minister's visit to America. 4) Skipped Sharm el-Sheikh. 5) Doesn't contradict him on Operation Sindoor," Rahul posted on X.

Ramesh recalled that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was the first to announce that India had halted Operation Sindoor. Subsequently, Trump claimed 51 times that he intervened to stop the operation by using tariffs and trade as his weapon of pressure.

BELAGAVI SMART CITY LIMITED (BSCL)
1st Floor, BUDA Office, Ashok Nagar, Belagavi - 590016.
Phone No: 0831-2461352
E-mail : bscltd16@gmail.com, Website : www.bscl.in

No: BSCL/Manpower Tender/2025-26/456 Date: 15-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the **Managing Director, Belagavi Smart City Limited, Belagavi,** bids are invited from eligible bidders through e-Procurement Cum Request for Proposal (RFP) for the below mentioned Projects. Further details may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Name of the Work: Supply of Data Entry Operator / Computer Operator, Attenders, Driver, Watchmen / Security Guards, Group-D on Contract Basis through Manpower Agency at Belagavi Smart City Limited, Belagavi, Office work Belagavi.
EMD Amount: **Rs. 66,600/-**

1) The date from which document can be downloaded is: **16-10-2025 to 30-10-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Bid: **30-10-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Last Date to Receive Technical Queries: **21-10-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Pre Bid Meeting is on: **24-10-2025 at 11.30 AM at BSCL Office. 5)** Technical Bid Opening is on: **03-11-2025 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Financial Bid Opening is on: **07-11-2025 at 11.00 AM**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Procurement)
Belagavi Smart City Limited, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1184/Adverto/2025-26

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
e-mail Id-pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION RATE PURPOSE ONLY
QIT NO.: JUIDCO/Traffic Control System/Ranchi/4112/2025/674
DATE : 16.10.2025

1	Name of the Work	Request for Quotation of market rate items for Installation/Reinstallation of ATCS (Adaptive Traffic Control System), CCTV and other IoT equipment's to the desired location within Municipal area of Ranchi, Jharkhand
2	Availability of Quotation	Online juidco.jharkhand.gov.in under the Tender Link from 18.10.2025
3	Mode of submission of Quotation	Offline (Through Post/By Hand in the office of JUIDCO Ltd. (JUIDCO Bhawan, Line Tank Road, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi 834001)
4	Start Date of Quotation	18.10.2025 at 10:00 Hrs
5	Last Date of Quotation Submission	10.11.2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	Date/Time of Quotation Opening	11.11.2025 at 17:30 Hrs.
7	Quotation Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd, JUIDCO Bhawan, Line Tank Road, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
8	Helpline no	+91 7763094547

PR 364330 Urban Development(25-26)#D

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL- BHEL)
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

RPCL is invited following tender from eligible contractors through KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the following procurements.

1) KPCL/2025-26/IND1786/CALL-4 11-10-2025 Procurement of feeder spares for HP1103 mills. **2) KPCL/2025-26/IND1950/CALL-2 11-10-2025** Procurement of high pressure valves. **3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2098 10-10-2025** Procurement of SS shims for YTPS. **4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2093 10-10-2025** Procurement of spares and assemblies of pneumatic power cylinder. **5) KPCL/2025-26/IND1997/CALL-2 09-10-2025** Procurement of Wagon tippler system support hydraulic valves. **6) KPCL/2025-26/IND2094 10-10-2025** Procurement of oil gun spares for YTPS. **7) KPCL/2025-26/IND2026/CALL-2 09-10-2025** Procurement of bearing block for CHP area belt conveyors. **8) KPCL/2025-26/AND2091 08-10-2025** Procurement of spares for HAG & CAG ducting system for YTPS. **9) KFCL/2025-26/IND2090 08-10-2025** Procurement of spares for spacer coupling for axial fans FD, ID, PA. **10) KPCL/2025-26/IND2005/CALL-2 08-10-2025** Procurement of ILMS spares. **11) KPCL/2025-26/IND2086 06-10-2025** Procurement of rubber expansion joint assembly. **12) KPCL/2025-26/IND1904/CALL-4 04-10-2025** Procurement of Omega 95 Grease for Omega make. **13) KPCL/2025-26/IND2007/CALL-2 04-10-2025** Procurement of Stat plate Epoxy sheet. **14) KPCL/2025-26/IND2092 13-10-2025** Procurement of various alloy steel for fabrication of scrapper assembly spares.

Last date & time for receipt of tender for Sl No. 1 & 2 : 20-10-2025, 16.00 Hrs. Sl No. 3 & 4 : 27-10-2025, 16.00 Hrs. Sl No. 5, 7, 10 & 11 : 23-10-2025, 16.00 Hrs. Sl No. 6, 8, 9 & 14 : 24-10-2025, 16.00 Hrs. Sl No. 12 & 13 : 21-10-2025, 16.00 Hrs. Tender documents shall be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the Executive Engineer (MSP), RPCL, YTPS, Yermarus-584 134, Raichur, Mobile: 9480682892, E-mail: eemsprpcl@gmail.com, www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in E-Mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ.
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : projecthdmc1@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ./100/01/ಟೆಕ್/25–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16–10–2025

ದರವಾರು ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **Construction of GI Or Puff Sheet based Portable Res Shelter for Civic Workers** ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ತಯಾರಕರು ವ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರು **ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೀಲಬಂದ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–10–2025** ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸದ **projecthdmc1@gmail.com** ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ. ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ. : **https://www.hdmc.mrc.gov.in/en/tenders** ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **17–10–2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24–10–2025** ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ **10.30** ರ ನಂತರ ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : **1)** ಈ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಸೇವೆಗಳ / ಸರಕುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ, ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾದ ವರ್ಕ್‌ಫ್ಲೋ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. **2)** ಈ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ ಸೇವಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸದ **projecthdmc1@gmail.com** ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ತಯಾರಕರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಮೂಲ ಧೃಢೀಕೃತ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಧೃಢೀಕೃತ ಪ್ರತಿಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **3)** ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಸೇವೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾನಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಈ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭತ್ಯಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ),
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ಡಿಜಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/768/ಮಗಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

Modi inaugurates projects worth Rs 13,430 cr in Andhra

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Stating that Andhra Pradesh has been emerging as a key contributor to the success of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday remarked that previous governments neglected Andhra Pradesh's capabilities, causing a setback to the entire nation.

Modi visited Andhra Pradesh on Thursday and inaugurated multiple development projects worth Rs 13,430 crore in Kurnool.

"A state that could have propelled national progress was left to struggle for its own development," he said and expressed satisfaction that under their government, Andhra Pradesh's trajectory is changing, with rapid growth in manufacturing.

PM Narendra Modi at Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, in Srisailam. PTI

The PM announced the launch of an Advanced Night Vision factory in Nimmaluru, marking another step towards self-reliance in the defence sector. He added that this facility will enhance India's capability to produce night vision equipment, missile sensors, and drone guard systems.

"Andhra Pradesh is a land of pride and rich culture, as well as a hub of science and innovation", affirmed the PM, emphasising the state's limitless potential and the boundless capabilities of its youth.

"Today, the world is witnessing the speed and scale of progress in India and Andhra Pradesh", said Modi, highlighting that just two days ago, Google announced a major investment in the state. He informed that Google is set to establish India's first Artificial Intelligence Hub in the state.

Announcing that Google's AI Hub investment will include development of a new International Subsea Gateway, the PM said that it will comprise multiple international subsea cables reaching eastern coast at Visakhapatnam. He stated that project will establish Visakhapatnam as a major hub for AI and global connectivity.

All Guj ministers, except CM, resign ahead of Cabinet expansion

GANDHINAGAR, PTI: A day ahead of the planned cabinet expansion in Gujarat, all 16 ministers except Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel resigned on Thursday, BJP sources said.

Bhupendra Patel

Patel will expand his cabinet on Friday, the state government had announced earlier in the morning.

"Resignations of all 16 ministers have been taken by the party. Except for Chief Minister Patel, all the ministers have resigned," said a BJP source.

As per the official release, the cabinet expansion will take place at 11.30 am on Friday. The present council of minister has 17 members, including CM Patel. Eight of them are cabinet-rank ministers, while the others are Ministers of State (MoS).

Gujarat, which has a 182-member assembly, can have 27 ministers.

SC stays HC order on women journalists' custody

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Telangana High Court, which allowed the state police to take into custody two women journalists despite the grant of bail to them in a case over an alleged objectionable video against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta decided to examine a plea filed by Pogadadanda Revathi and Bandi Sandhya alias Thanvi Yadav against the High Court's order.

"Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. In the meantime, the effect and operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," the bench said in its order.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, for the petitioners, argued that taking a person into police custody after the grant of bail, without the bail having been cancelled, is not permissible.

He contended that an accused can be called by the police for investigation, but not taken into custody.

Hijab, uniform and the ballot: Kerala's latest flashpoint

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The hijab controversy at a school in Kerala's Kochi is escalating, with vested interest groups attempting to give it a communal spin.

The Class VIII student of St Rita's Public School in Palluruthy continues to stay away from school as her parents have yet to clarify whether they will comply with the uniform policy, which doesn't allow the headscarf.

The school management is standing firm, citing a 2018 Kerala High Court order that upholds the right of schools to prescribe uniforms.

With the Social Democratic Party of India, the political arm of the banned Popular Front of India, supporting the student's right to wear a hijab, and various churches backing the school management, vested interest groups are giving the issue a communal colour.

Education Minister V Sivankutty is facing criticism for allegedly inflaming the situation by stating that the student should be allowed to wear a hijab, hours after Congress MP Hibi Eden claimed the matter had been resolved, with the parents agreeing to follow the uniform policy.

Sivankutty cited a state education department report that criticised the school for denying the student's request, while the school management argues this violates both the 2018 Kerala HC order and the 2022 Karnataka HC ruling.

While Sivankutty faced criticism for allegedly appeasing Muslim outfits, the BJP and allies backing the Christian-run school is being seen as another attempt by the saffron party to woo the Christian community.

With two minority groups on either side of the row, Congress says the issue should be resolved without allowing communal exploitation.

DRESS CODE DRAMA

- Minister criticised for inflaming issue after Cong-led mediation
- School cites Kerala and Karnataka HC rulings to defend stance
- BJP and allies back Christian-run school

Sabarimala gold missing case: Prime accused in SIT custody

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti, who is the prime accused in the Sabarimala gold missing cases, was taken into custody by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case on Thursday.

Potti is likely to be arrested. He was taken into custody by the SIT from his home at Pulimath in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram. He was being quizzed till late in the evening.

The probe by the Travancore Devaswom Board vigilance wing earlier found that gold from the platings of the Sabarimala Ayyaapa temple were missing after it was given to Potti again for gold plating. The gold extracted from the platings was suspected to be given to Bengaluru native Kalpesh.

SC dismisses plea against stay on Telangana OBC move

Says it can't take a view inconsistent with its verdict that fixed 50% quota ceiling

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea by the Telangana government against the state high court (HC) decision to stay Government Orders (GOs) that enhanced the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota in seats in local bodies — municipalities and panchayats — to 42%.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declined to interfere with the HC order after hearing submissions from senior advocate A M Singhvi for the state government, saying it could not take a view inconsistent with the SC judgement that fixed the reservation ceiling at 50%.

Singhvi asked the bench to indicate that it did not affect the matter listed before the HC.

"You may continue with your elections... (State's appeal is) dismissed. The order shall not affect the High Court in deciding the case on its own merits," the bench told the counsel.

Singhvi contended that there was no rigid 50% rule set by the apex court on reservation, as cited in the HC interim order.

He submitted that there was a misconception that the apex court's ruling in the Indra Sawhney case (1992) — involving the Mandal Commission and a nine-judge bench — established a rigid 50% cap on reservations for backward classes in all cases.

The bench observed that the 2021 Vikas Gawali judgment did not allow reservations to exceed 50%. Singhvi said it was a policy decision, and a unanimous resolution of all parties supports it.

It added that even the consideration of empirical data did not allow the government to go beyond 50% reservation.

It was argued before the bench that the analysis of empirical evidence indicated that the backward classes were still relatively lagging.

Singhvi contended that if the court were to hold that there was an absolute 50% cap on reservation, then what is to be done in a state where the OBC population exceeded 70%?

On October 9, the Telangana HC issued an interim stay order against a GO providing 42% BC reservation in local-body polls.

The court directed the State Election Commission to notify the proportionate seats as open category seats and proceed with the elections.

The court stayed GO 9, and consequential GOs 41 and 42 in this regard. Following this, the Telangana State Election Commission issued a statement saying the poll notification was issued on September 29, and further activities were suspended until further notification.

Attack on CJI: SC declines to list plea seeking contempt action

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday said taking any action against lawyer Rakesh Kishore, who attempted to hurl a shoe at the Chief Justice of India, may open another episode, with the social media marketing it in the weeks to come.

Observing that let the incident die a natural death, the top court declined a plea to list on October 17 a petition seeking contempt action against the lawyer, who made abortive bid to throw a shoe at the CJI on October 6 during the court proceedings, apparently hurt over his comments in the Lord Vishnu idol case.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was informed that the Attorney General has given consent to initiate contempt proceedings against the Delhi lawyer for his act as mandated under the Contempt of Courts Act.

The court, however, pointed out that taking any action in the matter may open another episode and the CJI has himself decided to close it. It also highlighted that social media may further monetise it by discussing it in the days and weeks to come.

Senior advocate and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Vikas Singh mentioned the matter seeking urgent listing on Friday as the lawyer has not expressed any remorse and justified his act.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta endorsed Singh's submission saying some people on social media glorified it, by saying that the act was too late to have been done.

The bench, however, said the CJI has been magnanimous, showing that the institution is not affected by such acts.

"Just think when you initiate such kind of proceedings. In social media, everything becomes a saleable item," the bench said. Singh urged the court to pass a John Doe order.

The court also pointed there are many more important matters before it and asked if it would not waste its time.

AI crash: Father of deceased pilot moves SC seeking probe

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Pushkaraj Sabharwal, the father of deceased Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, and the Federation of Indian Pilots have moved the top court seeking a court-monitored inquiry headed by a former apex court judge into the June 12 crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad that killed 260 people.

On September 22, the top court said certain aspects of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) preliminary report on the crash indicated lapses on the part of pilots, and issued notices to the Central government and the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on another plea seeking an independent, fair, and expeditious probe.

Pushkaraj (91) has sought a "fair, transparent, and technically robust" investigation into the incident. His plea contended: "An incomplete and prejudiced inquiry, without identification of the exact cause of the accident, endangers the lives of future passengers and undermines aviation safety at large, causing a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution."

The petition, filed on October 10, made the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, the DGCA, and the AAIB director general respondents, and is likely to come up for hearing after the Diwali vacation.

The plea sought directions for the constitution of an independent panel, which would include aviation and technical experts, to probe the crash.

68 surrendered Maoists find jobs at Lloyds Metals in Gadchiroli

MUMBAI, DHNS

Sixty-eight surrendered Maoists have joined Lloyds Metals and Energy Ltd, the company said Friday, as part of efforts to rehabilitate former insurgents in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra.

The move follows the surrender of Communist Party of India (Maoist) strategist Mallojula Venugopal Rao, also known as Bhupathi or Sonu, and around 60 other commanders and cadres. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis praised the company for training and employing the former insurgents.

Lloyds Metals and Energy, in coordination with the state government and Gadchiroli police, has so far provided employment to 68 surrendered Maoists from previous surrenders, along with 14 family members affected by Maoist violence, bringing the total to 82.

The company said the former insurgents are working in administration, civil and construction projects, and mechanical operations. Many of the employees received training at the Lloyds Skill Development and Training Centre in Konsari before joining the workforce. LMEL operates the Surjagarh iron ore mines in Etapalli taluka and has expanded operations to include a direct reduced iron and pellet plant at Konsari.

Fadnavis performed the bhoomipujan for the company's proposed integrated steel plant in July and inaugurated slurry pipeline and iron ore grinding unit.

LMEL said the coordinated efforts between industry, government and local administration are fostering trust and economic growth in Gadchiroli.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

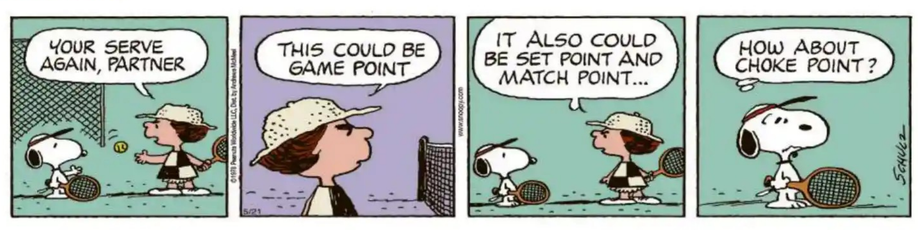
Blondie

I'M FLYING TO SPECTACULAR ARUBA FOR MY SUMMER VACAY!
IT'S TAHITI FOR ME AND SWEETIE!!
TOOTSIE AND I WILL BE IN A SECLUDED CABIN... HOW ABOUT YOU, AMIGO?
I'LL BE STUCK AT CAMP DITHERS...SAILING THOUGH A SEA OF OVERDUE REPORTS!
IF I'M LUCKY, I MIGHT GET TO ROAST S'MORES ON THE BREAK ROOM STOVE
WE MIGHT HAVE HIT A SORE SPOT
YA THINK?
7-10

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

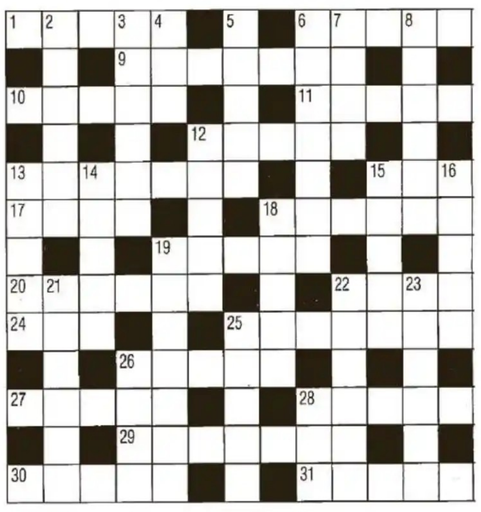
Peanuts



Marvin

WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SWEATSHIRT IN THIS HEAT?
JENNY HATES THIS SWEATSHIRT. SHE'S COMPLAINED ABOUT IT A LOT RECENTLY
IF I LET IT OUT OF MY SIGHT I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER SEE IT AGAIN

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12269



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 On paper, a try (5)
6 She shows there's nothing very soft in Paisley's exterior (5)
9 Name or part of the number on a passenger vehicle (7)
10 One's personal box of vital possessions (5)
11 In public transport, they are not unparalleled (5)
12 A penetrating product long handled (5)
13 Poetry the boy sent astray (7)
15 He robs tyrants of lots of money (3)
17 Scheme to keep the allotment holder busy (4)
18 A strong, firm fellow (6)
19 Food painfully taken? (5)
20 Getting back in less than a day is tiresome! (6)
22 To cheat some people is a bad thing to do (4)
24 He likes a drink, so starts tippling (3)
25 Generous politician? (7)
26 Great enthusiasm of a chap for a piano piece (5)
27 Good man, though he made a bad start in wrecking a boat (5)
28 Figure the general's about surrendered! (5)
29 Being quite elderly, they've left school (3,4)
30 Thin and weak, yet growing strong? (5)
31 My tea cannot possibly be vegetarian! (5)

DOWN
2 Instructive group of artists? (6)
3 Away somewhere, like a sailor mending nets (6)
4 Still the old-fashioned shirt style (3)
5 Discontinue operations on the street (5)
6 When held up, it keeps airborne troops on the cool side (7)
7 Is he honoured for his warm heart? (4)
8 Dusty substance found in bloomers (6)
12 Just a yarn, so try to edit it (5)
13 Colorado beetle's favourite veg (5)
14 Saw up a piece of music! (5)
15 Out East, knotted cord used for furnishings, etc. (5)
16 The way a swimmer is often termed "cold" (5)
18 Her insurance liability is much reduced (5)
19 Some atlases are grey covered, very largely (7)
21 Money around which troubles are centred? (6)
22 Think up a way for Sid and Eve to get together (6)
23 Father torn from mother, maybe (6)
25 Such dancers bend over backwards to succeed (5)
26 The way one feels about a low number? (4)
28 Jim's sound place of exercise (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Fish (5)
6 Domesticated (5)
9 Happening slowly (7)
10 Honour (5)
11 Loans (5)
12 Yields (5)
13 Consents (7)
15 Age (3)
17 Action (4)
18 Rocks (6)
19 Insects (5)
20 Lazers (6)
22 Lake (4)
24 Also (3)
25 Tablet (7)
26 Cut (5)
27 Prickly plants (5)
28 Money-bag (5)
29 Tumbler (7)
30 Parts of speech (5)
31 Poor (5)

DOWN
2 Royal residence (6)
3 Tallied (6)
4 Attempt (3)
5 Borders (5)
6 Flairs (7)
7 Beers (4)
8 Last (6)
12 Prison rooms (5)
13 Own (5)
14 Stringed instrument (5)
15 Go in (5)
16 Poplar (5)
18 Feeling (5)
19 Gambols (7)
21 Give (6)
22 Tiny (6)
23 Washed out (6)
25 Performer (5)
26 Knife (4)
28 Criticise (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12268

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Supply 7, Stick out 8, Anthem 10, Ev'I-Ct. 13, Tr-O-y 14, NE-ll 15, Pe-er 16, Peg 17, Eton 19, Ma-I-d 21, Marmalade 23, (Stan-)More 24, Bale (rev.) 26, NI-b 27, Mild 29, Plum 32, M-ode 33, Stone 34, Man-ure 35, After all 36, Sevens.
DOWN: 1, A-she-N 2, CIVIL 3, Ski-t 4, Stare 5, Pi-ty 6, Le-ere-d 9, Norm-Al 11, Vet 12, CL-ear 13, T-Ena-ble 15, P-OM 16, P-i.e. 18, Tremor 20, Ad-ept 21, Mob 22, LA-d 23, MI-rage 25, Fun 28, I'd-eas 30, Local 31, Meals 32, Muse 33, S-u-et.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Locate 7, Panorama 8, Italic 10, Steak 13, Writ 14, Herb 15, Lisp 16, Beg 17, Bait 19, Thus 21, Momentous 23, Tutu 24, Ewes 26, Bog 27, So-so 29, Knit 32, Gems 33, Hyena 34, Sparse 35, Get ahead 36, Hernia.
DOWN: 1, Apish 2, Anger 3, Trek 4, Lairs 5, Chat 6, Tribes 9, Tiptoe 11, Tee 12, Abbot 13, Witness 15, Lie 16, Bus 18, Amuses 20, Husky 21, Mug 22, Two 23, Toupee 25, Bin 28, Omega 30, Never 31, Tardy 32, Grin 33, Heal.

◆SU-DO-KU-6728◆

		4		8				9
		1				6		5
		7			5	1		2
	2			3	7			
3			8		1			7
			5	2			6	
1		3	4			2		
6		2				9		
4				1		3		

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6727

6	3	4	2	8	7	9	5	1
5	8	1	6	4	9	7	3	2
9	2	7	3	1	5	6	8	4
1	7	9	5	3	2	4	6	8
4	5	3	7	6	8	2	1	9
2	6	8	4	9	1	3	7	5
3	9	5	1	7	4	8	2	6
8	1	6	9	2	3	5	4	7
7	4	2	8	5	6	1	9	3

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1 E1 E1 R1 T1 S1 C3	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 1
L1 R1 M3 D2 U1 K5 A1	Double Word Score	RACK 2
K5 O1 B3 I1 L1 C3 O1		RACK 3
D2 G2 E1 A1 E1 M3 N1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3 O1 F4 F4 I1 N1 S1	RACK 1 =	45
J8 U1 N1 K5 E1 T1 S1	RACK 2 =	104
C3 E1 N1 T1 R1 A1 L1	RACK 3 =	77
P3 E1 R1 F4 E1 C3 T1	RACK 4 =	92
PAR SCORE 205-215	JUDD'S TOTAL	318

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

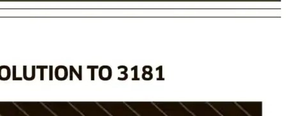
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TLEEI

GIHST

DLOYBL

NCSAAV


I told you to make your bed and get those dishes out of the sink!
It's my bed- I don't mind it messy, and I'll use those dishes next time I eat.
4/9
THE GENERAL WANTED HIS SON TO HELP AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT IT WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAVER RAZOR THRIVE DRENCH
Answer: The pole vaulter's attempt was going to end when it was — OVER WITH

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HITORI-3182

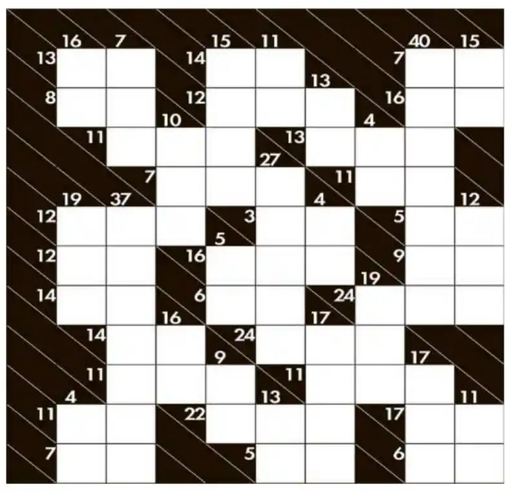
3	8	4	6	5	1	6	7
3	7	2	3	3	6	3	4
4	1	2	8	2	5	7	6
2	3	5	3	1	7	4	5
4	4	3	7	3	8	2	1
5	2	3	1	7	3	3	3
1	3	6	2	3	5	8	8
5	6	7	8	4	3	8	5

SOLUTION TO 3181

6	8	5	■	4	1	3	■
8	■	2	1	■	5	■	7
7	5	■	4	8	6	2	3
1	■	7	■	3	■	6	8
4	6	8	7	■	2	■	5
■	3	■	6	5	4	8	■
3	7	6	5	■	8	4	2
■	1	4	■	6	7	5	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3182



SOLUTION TO 3181

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3708

■		9						■
	1					■		
2	5	■				■		1
9	6		■		8			
				■	4		1	
		2	■	7	■	9		4
		■	3	9		■		
3			5	8			■	
■	2		1			7		■

SOLUTION TO 3707

7	1	8	4	9	5	6	3	2
2	4	9	3	7	6	8	1	5
6	3	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
4	9	7	1	5	8	3	2	6
3	8	1	9	6	2	5	4	7
5	6	2	7	4	3	9	8	1
1	7	3	6	8	9	2	5	4
8	5	6	2	1	4	7	9	3
9	2	4	5	3	7	1	6	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump to hold talks with Putin in Budapest

Tomahawk missile supply top of agenda with Ukraine president

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said he would meet Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Budapest after making "great progress" in a call Thursday, just a day before Ukraine's leader is due at the White House to push for US-made Tomahawk missiles.

Trump did not provide a date for the meeting in the Hungarian capital, which would be his second with Putin since returning to office. The pair met in Alaska in August without achieving a breakthrough on ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"I believe great progress was made with today's telephone conversation," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

He added that he and Putin would "meet in an agreed-upon location, Budapest, Hungary, to see if we can bring this 'inglorious' war between Russia and Ukraine to an end."

Top US and Russian officials, including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, would hold "initial meetings" next week in a location yet to be decided, Trump added.

Trump's comments represent the latest wild swing in his relations with Putin, after he recently expressed growing frustration with the Kremlin leader over his refusal to reach a peace deal.

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska (US). REUTERS FILE

'New level of escalation'

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin or from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is due to meet Trump on Friday to push him to increase pressure on Putin. During Zelenskyy's meeting with Trump at the White House on Friday, "the main topic of discussion is Tomahawks," a senior Ukrainian official told AFP.

Trump is considering a request from Ukraine for American-made Tomahawk cruise missiles, which have a range of around 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) and could strike deep into Russia.

CRUCIAL MEETING

- Zelenskyy's meeting with Trump on Friday will focus on missile deliveries as Russia continues attacks on Ukraine
- Trump may approve Tomahawk cruise missiles to bolster Ukraine's long-range strike capability

Trump had warned at the weekend that he would likely raise the issue first with Putin, who has said supplying Tomahawks would be a "whole new level of escalation."

"I might talk to him, I might say, 'Look, if this war is not going to get settled, I'm going to send them Tomahawks.' I may say that," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to the Middle East.

"The Tomahawk is an incredible weapon, a very offensive weapon, and honestly, Russia does not need that."

Trump added on Wednesday that the Ukrainians "want to go offensive" and that they would discuss Kyiv's request for the cruise missiles.

The US leader has also said he wants to increase pressure on Moscow following the ceasefire agreement he brokered in Gaza between Israel and Hamas last week.

Relations between Trump and Zelenskyy have warmed since February, when they sparred during a now-infamous televised meeting at the White House in which the US leader told his Ukrainian counterpart: "You don't have the cards."

Namma Super 30: Nurturing students to become tomorrow's doctors and engineers

This programme offers 100 per cent scholarship along with hostel facilities for 30 select students aspiring for competitive exams, including JEE and NEET

Highlights

- Orchids The International School launches Namma Super 30 programme
- An opportunity to clear competitive exams, such as JEE and NEET
- Last date for registration is November 2, 2025
- Preliminary screenings on November 16, 2025

What students can expect

- Select students will be accommodated at Orchids The International School's Kanakapura campus, Bengaluru
- Mornings at the campus will begin with yoga and meditation
- Apart from regular classes, special sessions will be conducted to clear doubts
- Self-study time will be provided daily
- Sports, arts, debates and cultural activities are also part of the programme
- Students can also attend special lectures provided by experts and industry leaders

For many bright young students in Karnataka, the dream of becoming an engineer or doctor often collides with the harsh reality of high coaching fees and limited resources. With an intent to bridge this gap, Orchids The International School is announcing the launch of Namma Super 30 - a transformative initiative designed to empower Karnataka's future prodigies. Aimed at Grade 10 students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the initiative provides them with the opportunity to pursue highly competitive entrance exams such as IIT-JEE, KCET, AIIMS and NEET-UG. Over the next two years, 30 prospective engineers and doctors will receive world-class coaching, accommodation, nutritious meals, study materials and personal mentorship, at no cost. Aspirants will be divided into two streams - engineering and medical. The engineering track focuses on physics, chemistry and mathematics, with weekly JEE Main pattern tests and monthly advanced mock exams to prepare them for top institutions such as IITs, NITs and IIITs. Meanwhile, the medical stream offers intensive preparation in physics, chemistry and biology, supplemented with weekly NEET mocks and subject-wise assessments, paving the way for admission to AIIMS and other government medical colleges.

In India, many children come from families where every step towards education is built on the silent sacrifices of parents. For such families, a scholarship is not just financial support but a turning point in their lives - an opportunity that can potentially transform an entire generation or community.

Ankur Kemparaj, Vice President - Academics, Orchids The International School, who is among those spearheading the initiative, considers Namma Super 30 deeply personal. "Being a scholarship student myself, I can testify to its positive impact on shaping not only my academic journey but my entire life. It was an emotional decision for my family, and I remain grateful for the assistance I received at such a crucial point of my formative years. With Namma Super 30, we want to give the same gift of opportunity to today's young dreamers. This initiative goes beyond preparing students for exams. It focuses on their holistic development, giving them not only coaching but also the guidance, care and congenial environment they deserve to grow into confident and future-ready citizens," he said.

Selected students will be staying at Orchids' Kanakapura campus, where they get to begin their day with morning yoga and meditation, daily classes, doubt-clearing sessions and dedicated evening self-study hours. To promote all-round development, students will also be engaged in sports, arts, debates and cultural activities, alongside attending lectures by academic experts and industry leaders.

According to Ashwani Kumar, Director - Academics (Physics) at Orchids, students from across the state will be provided mentorship by experienced faculty members, who will help them discover and develop their inherent talents. "Beyond preparing students to succeed in competitive exams such as JEE and NEET, it aims to instill discipline, resilience and a growth mindset, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the growth story of the country," he said.

Students will be shortlisted following a rigorous, merit-driven entrance exam. The last date to register for Namma Super 30 is November 2, 2025. The preliminary screenings are scheduled for November 16, 2025. Sample papers and syllabus are available on the website, www.nammasuper30.com

Application forms for the 2026-28 batch are available at www.nammasuper30.com/register

Curated by DH Brandspot

Shots fired at Kapil Sharma's restaurant for third time

SURREY (CANADA), PTI: Shots were fired at comedian Kapil Sharma's restaurant on Thursday for the third time since its opening in July in Surrey, Canada, raising concerns about repeated attacks on the business.

Kapil Sharma

The police is investigating after reports of shots being fired at the restaurant on 85 Avenue and 120 Street around 3:45 am, CityNews Vancouver reported. The staff were inside the café at the time, but fortunately, no one was injured, it added. The restaurant reopened early this month after being targeted on July 10 and August 7, prompting security concerns among local residents and customers.

On August 7, shots were fired at the restaurant, but no one was harmed. The firing caused damage to the windows and building structure. The restaurant opened in Surrey on July 4. Within a week, it became the target of an attack. There were no injuries after shots were fired for the first time on July 10, but the repeated incidents have raised questions about security measures at the popular dining spot.

Trump authorises covert CIA action in Venezuela

Maduro orders military exercises after US anti-drug attacks

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump indicated on Wednesday that he had authorised covert CIA action against Venezuela and said he was considering strikes against alleged drug cartels on land in the South American country.

Trump's comments triggered outrage from Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, who decried "coups d'état orchestrated by the CIA" and ordered military exercises following a recent US strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean.

Republican Trump declined to comment in detail on a New York Times report that he had secretly approved the CIA to conduct covert action in Venezuela against Maduro. "But I authorised for two reasons really," he said, listing familiar talking points accusing Maduro of leading a "narco-terrorist" regime and of releasing prisoners from jails and sending them to the United States.

Asked if he had given the CIA authority to "take out" Maduro, Trump replied: "That's a ridiculous question for me to be given. Not really a ridiculous question, but wouldn't it be a ridiculous question for me to answer?" Trump added that he was considering whether to expand US military actions against alleged Venezuelan drug cartels to land after a series of deadly naval strikes on boats. "We are certainly looking at land now, because we've got the sea very well under control," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

At least 27 people have been killed in recent US attacks on boats in the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago is investigating whether two of those killed were its citizens, officials said Wednesday.

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro recently called on the United Nations to open a "criminal process" against Trump for the strikes, which he believes also killed Colombians. Experts have questioned the legality of using lethal force in foreign or international waters against suspects who have not been intercepted or questioned.

Trump's comments come amid a major US naval build-up in the Caribbean, which Washington says is part of an anti-drug operation. But the moves have been widely condemned in Latin America, with fears mounting in Caracas that Trump is seeking regime change.

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro participates in a rally to mark Indigenous Resistance Day in Caracas. REUTERS FILE

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"We are certainly looking at land (attacks) now, because we've got the sea very well under control.

India asks NAM states to show zero tolerance for terrorism

KAMPALA (UGANDA), PTI

India called on Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member states to display zero tolerance for terrorism, saying any sponsorship, support, justification or cover-up of terrorism will "come back to bite those who do so".

Delivering India's statement at the 19th NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting here on Thursday, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said terrorism is a "shared threat" that can be addressed only through deeper international cooperation.

"For decades, India has been a victim of barbaric cross-border terrorist attacks, most recently on 22 April 2025, when innocent tourists were slaughtered in Pahalgam in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

He said that virtually every member of this movement is cognizant of the challenge posed by terrorism and is committed to combating it.

"However, it is a matter of deep regret that when the UN Security Council deliberated on the Pahalgam terrorist attack, a member state chose to defend the perpetrator – The Resistance Front – to the extent of seeking a deletion of any public reference to them," Singh said, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Unfortunately, we have another member state that defends the action of this country, Singh added, in a veiled reference to Pakistan's all-weather ally China.

"It is imperative that the Non-Aligned Movement display zero tolerance for terrorism. Any sponsorship, support, justification or cover-up of terrorism will come back to bite those who do so," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Croatian free diver Vitomir Maricic, 40, relaxes under water during a training at the pool in Rijeka, on Tuesday. Maricic went beyond what seemed impossible for the human body by holding his breath for 29 minutes and three seconds under water. AFP

Taliban govt blames Pakistan for drone strikes on Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban government said on Thursday that Pakistan carried out two drone strikes on Kabul the day before, AP/PTI reports from Islamabad.

The attacks on Wednesday came just before the two countries declared a truce following the deadliest violence between them in years. Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, told The Associated Press that the strikes hit the city on Wednesday afternoon. The first target was a civilian house, while the second was a market. Zadran did not give casualty figures, but doctors at a hospital said earlier that five people were killed and dozens were injured. The surgical centre run by Emergency, a nongovernmental organisation, said the wounded had shrapnel wounds, blunt force trauma, and burns.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government's chief spokesman, initially said there had been an oil tanker explosion.

Death penalty sought for Hasina

Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor on Thursday sought the death penalty for deposed premier Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she was the "mastermind and principal architect" behind the crimes against humanity committed during the mass protests last year, PTI reports from Dhaka.

Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following the mass student-led agitation in the country. According to a UN rights office report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters. "Sheikh Hasina is the mastermind of all the crimes. She is an unrepentant, heartless criminal. She deserves the maximum punishment. No mercy should be shown to her regarding the death penalty," Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Houthi military chief dies from Israeli strike injuries

DUBAI, AP/PTI: An Israeli airstrike targeting the top leaders of Yemen's Houthi rebels in August killed the chief of staff of its military, officials confirmed on Thursday, further escalating tensions between the group and Israel even as a ceasefire holds in the Gaza Strip.

The Houthis have acknowledged the killing of Maj Gen Muhammad Abdul Karim al-Ghamari, who had been sanctioned by the United Nations and the United States.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz claimed responsibility for the killing.

He said al-Ghamari, the brainchild behind several attacks on Israel, died of wounds sustained in the attack and had joined "his fellow members of the axis of evil in the depths of hell." Katz referred to the strike as "the strike of the firstborn," a reference to a series of Israeli strikes conducted on 28 August.

That strike killed Houthi Prime Minister Ahmed al-Rahawi, the highest-ranking official within the group to be killed by Israeli attacks targeting the rebels over their assaults on Israel and shipping in the Red Sea corridor.

The United Nations, in sanctioning al-Ghamari, described him as playing "the leading role in orchestrating the Houthis' military efforts that are directly threatening the peace, security and stability of Yemen, as well as attacks against Saudi Arabia."

Trump threatens to use force against Hamas

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump on Thursday warned Hamas "we will have no choice but to go in and kill them" if internal bloodshed persists in Gaza.

The grim warning from Trump came after he previously downplayed the internal violence in the territory since a ceasefire went into effect last week.

Trump said Tuesday that Hamas had taken out "a couple of gangs that were very bad" and had killed a number of gang members.

"That didn't bother me much, to be honest with you," he said.

ROYAL RECOGNITION

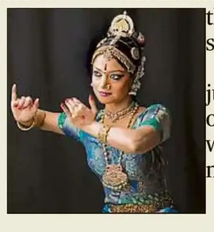
Kuchipudi dancer Arunima Kumar receives King's honour in UK

LONDON, PTI

Celebrated UK-based artist Arunima Kumar on Thursday became the first Kuchipudi dancer to be conferred King Charles III's Honorary British Empire Medal (BEM), for services to Indian classical dance and community.

The Honorary BEM, a royal honour awarded for "hands-on" service to the local community, comes in recognition of Kumar's tireless efforts in taking Indian classical dance, particularly Kuchipudi, to global platforms and fostering cross-cultural understanding through the arts.

The renowned cultural leader, influencer and ambassador has many firsts to her credit, including performances at Buckingham Palace and Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations and Diwali festivities at 10 Downing Street in London.



Kuchipudi dancer Arunima Kumar

"It's an incredible honour to receive the King's honour and I'm grateful for this international recognition and to all those who believe in my work," said Kumar.

"For me, this recognition is not just personal but a celebration of Indian classical dance on the world stage. Kuchipudi has been my lifelong companion, a medium of storytelling, healing, and unity," she said.

Her institution, Arunima Kumar Dance Company (AKDC), is credited with making Kuchipudi accessible and relevant across the world with over 3,000 performances in more than 50 countries, training hundreds of students across the UK, India and Poland, aged four to 75.

Eternal posts Rs 65 cr consolidated net profit in Q2; Blinkit drives revenue

NEW DELHI, PTI

Food delivery and quick commerce firm Eternal, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit brands, on Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 65 crore for the second quarter ended September, with the quick commerce business contributing significantly to its revenue growth.

The company, which re-branded itself as Eternal in March, had reported a net profit of Rs 176 crore in the June-September quarter of the last fiscal.

In a regulatory filing, Eternal said the results are not comparable with the corresponding quarter last year on account of the acquisition of Orbgen Technologies Pvt Ltd and Wasteland Entertainment Pvt Ltd, holding the 'movie ticketing' and the 'events' businesses, respectively, from One 97 Communications Ltd (Paytm's parent firm), which completed in August 2024.

In a letter to shareholders, Eternal said it expects "a slow uptick in growth rate in the near term" for the food delivery net order value (NOV) for Zomato, due to multiple headwinds including soft discretionary consumption, impact of quick commerce growth and increasingly volatile weather conditions.

"In line with our expectation, NOV growth rate year-on-year (YoY) did go up in Q2FY26 after declining consistently for the last five quarters. Having said that, the recovery in growth has been slower than expected and we only expect a slow uptick in growth rate in the near term.

"While we continue to work on inputs to the business, we are also constantly fighting multiple headwinds including soft discretionary consumption in general in India, the impact of quick commerce growth and increasingly volatile weather (extreme heat, extended rains), which continue to weigh on near term growth," Eternal Founder Deepinder Goyal stated on the outlook for the food delivery NOV growth rate.

Zomato's food delivery NOV grew 14% YoY, improving slightly from 13% YoY NOV growth in the previous quarter.

During the quarter under review, Eternal's revenue from operations stood at Rs 13,590 crore. It was Rs 4,799 crore in the year-ago period.

It reported a total expense of Rs 13,813 crore in the quarter. It was Rs 4,783 crore a year ago.

Eternal's reporting segments include its India food ordering business, quick commerce, Hyperpure supplies (B2B business), going out, and other segments (residual).

The company's quick commerce NOV growth accelerated to 137% YoY to Rs 11,679 crore, its highest ever in the last ten quarters, from Rs 4,928 crore in the corresponding June-September quarter of last year. Its adjusted revenue for the quick commerce segment zoomed multi-fold by 756 per cent to Rs 9,891 crore, from Rs 1,156 crore a year ago, data showed.

Regarding the GST rate rationalisation effective from September 22, Eternal said the GST rate cuts have brought down the average tax on Blinkit's typical basket by close to 3 percentage points, which should drive more demand.

"We certainly expect a positive rub-off on demand due to this from Q3FY26 onwards (given the changes came into effect only towards the end of Q2FY26). As far as Q2FY26 is concerned, we saw a negative impact on both growth and margins as customers went into wait and watch mode delaying their purchases across categories including the ones where no GST rate changes were announced," Eternal CFO Akshant Goyal said.

Infosys Q2 net profit up 13% at Rs 7,364 crore

Raises lower end of FY26 revenue guidance

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The country's second-largest IT services firm Infosys on Thursday posted a 13% year-on-year (YoY) increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 7,364 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had posted Rs 6,506 crore in the year-ago period. The IT firm's revenue from operations rose 8.5% to Rs 44,490 crore in the September quarter, beating analysts' expectations of around Rs 44,010 crore.

The Bengaluru-based firm also raised the lower end of FY26 revenue guidance to 2% narrowing it between 2% and 3% in constant currency from the earlier forecast of 1% to 3%. It maintained its operating margin guidance at 20-22%.

"With a strong performance in Q2, we changed our revenue growth guidance for the financial year. The new guidance is growth between 2% and 3% in constant currency terms for the full year," Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, Infosys, said during the company's post earnings conference.

The company's operating margin in Q2 stood at 21% and large deal TCV (total contract value) was at $3.1 billion. Infosys witnessed strong performance in financial services (5.4% y-o-y growth) and manufacturing (6.6%) verticals.

"Our pipeline in retail is looking good," the CEO said.

Though the company did not share AI-specific revenues like its peers, the CEO said that they are scaling up massively on artificial intelligence (AI).

"We are doing a lot of projects on enterprise AI. There's a broad set of AI work that we are doing with our clients. There's a large number of clients for which Infosys is today the AI partner of choice. We believe there's a huge amount of opportunity in the enterprise AI space," he added.

When asked about AI agents, the CEO told *DH* that they have deployed 400 AI agents and this is across verticals. In Q1, the company announced that it has deployed nearly 300 Agentic AI solutions across client engagements.

The company has been constantly outperforming its overall growth in Europe (6.3%). When asked about it, the CEO said, "Europe has done extremely well for us as we made some good investments in different countries across Europe. The US market is also a very good market and we will continue to grow, and will continue to make acquisitions. We will invest in both of those markets and other markets around the world," he said.

The board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 23 per share. It has also approved Grant of 109,893 Restricted Stock Units under the 2015 Stock Incentive Compensation Plan to eligible employees.

Infosys CEO & MD Salil Parekh (L), with the group's Executive Vice President and CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka at a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

No major disruption due to H-1B visa issue: Parekh

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh said the number of people that require Infosys sponsorship for immigration is a minority. "The majority of the people don't require it from our perspective. Secondly, we've built a large number of centres and hubs that are focused on digital, innovation, technology and AI in the US," he said during the press conference.

"We have relationships with universities. We have a training facility there. With all of that in mind, we are clear today that we will work with our clients without any disruption to their services and into the future," he added.

Infosys adds over 8,000 employees in Q2

At a time when a few IT companies are firing employees as a part of their restructuring plan, Bengaluru-based Infosys has added 8,203 employees in July-September, 2025. As of September 30, 2025, Infosys' total employee headcount stood at 3,31,991. In the first half of this fiscal year (April to September), the company has added 8,413 employees.

The company has also hired 12,000 freshers in H1FY26. "We had said that we would hire 15,000 to 20,000 freshers in FY26, and in the first half, we have already hired over 12,000 freshers. We are well on track to hire close to 20,000 freshers," Jayesh Sanghrajka, CFO, Infosys, said during the company's Q2 post-earnings conference.

The company also said that they will continue hiring locally for its Hubballi campus. Last year the company announced an incentive package for employees who are open to transfer to its Hubballi campus. "In terms of the campus movement you always need to have certain senior people move to those campuses so that you start meeting the demand requirement and that's how you incentivise people to move to certain campuses and then you start building the team below that," the CFO said. He added that they will continue hiring locally in Hubballi. "We have hired a few people," he said, without providing any number. In case of a wage hike, he said that the company has given a wage hike in January and April. "It is generally an annual cycle and we will look at it in future. We have not decided anything for this year at this point in time," the CFO added.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, VasanthNagar,Bengaluru - 560051.

No. BSWML/260/News-Ad/2025-26 Date: 16.10.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPPP Only)

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for supply of services through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of Bone waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-1 Bangalore Central City Corporation).**	21.9	43,800
2	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of Bone waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-2 Bangalore East City Corporation).**	10.95	27,500
3	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of Bone waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-3 Bangalore West City Corporation).**	21.9	43,800
4	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of Bone waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-4 Bangalore North City Corporation).**	16.425	41,500
5	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of Bone waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) (as is where is basis) **(Package-5 Bangalore South City Corporation).**	10.95	27,500

Calendar of Events : 1) Tender Pre Bid meeting **29.10.2025 at 15:00hrs. 2)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender **03.11.2025 before 16:00 hrs. 3)** Opening of Tender **04.11.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-4
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3322/SSC/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
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Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1.	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of animal waste viz. chicken/poultry waste, fish waste, pig waste/other animal waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-1 Bangalore Central City Corporation).**	1095.00	10.95
2	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of animal waste viz. chicken/poultry waste, fish waste, pig waste/other animal waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-2 Bangalore East City Corporation).**	547.5	8.21
3	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of animal waste viz. chicken/poultry waste, fish waste, pig waste/other animal waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-3 Bangalore West City Corporation).**	730	10.95
4	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of animal waste viz. chicken/poultry waste, fish waste, pig waste/other animal waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-4 Bangalore North City Corporation).**	730	10.95
5	"End-to-End Service of Collection, transportation and processing of animal waste viz. chicken/poultry waste, fish waste, pig waste/other animal waste directly from the stalls/shops/other places deemed necessary (as is where is basis) **(Package-5 Bangalore South City Corporation).**	547.5	8.21

Calendar of Events : 1) Tender Pre Bid meeting **29.10.2025 at 15:00hrs. 2)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender **03.11.2025 before 16:00 hrs. 3)** Opening of Tender **04.11.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-4
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3321/SSC/2025-26

Wipro Q2 net profit up 1.2%, misses street estimates

Onboards 2,900 freshers during the quarter

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm Wipro on Thursday missed street estimates slightly and posted a marginal rise of 1.2% in its consolidated net profit at Rs 3,246 crore for the second quarter ended September 2025, compared to Rs 3,209 crore in the year-ago period. Street prediction was a profit of about Rs 3,279 crore.

Its revenue from operations in the second quarter grew 1.8% to Rs 22,697 crore compared to Rs 22,302 crore in the same quarter last year.

The Bengaluru-based firm's large deal booking was at $2.9 billion, grew 90.5% year-on-year (YoY), and overall deal bookings stood at $4.7 billion.

Its Q2 FY26 adjusted operating margin was at 17.2%, expanded by 0.4% YoY.

"This is within the narrow band we had previously indicated, and it's an improvement of 0.4% compared to the same period last year," said Srini Pallia, CEO and Managing Director, Wipro, during the company's Q2 earnings press conference.

IT services operating margin for Q2 FY26 was 16.7%, "impacted by a provision of Rs 116.5 crore made with respect to bankruptcy of a customer," the company said in a BSE filing.

The company expects revenue from its IT Services business segment to be in the range of $2,591 million to $2,644 million. This translates to sequential guidance of (-)0.5% to (+)1.5% in constant currency terms.

"We continue to see momentum in BFSI, with clients prioritising cost optimisation, vendor consolidation, legacy modernisation, and scaled deployment of Agentic AI. Tariff uncertainties continue to impact the Consumer, Energy, and Manufacturing sectors, leading customers to re-evaluate their supply chains," Pallia said.

The CEO also mentioned that the company's order bookings this quarter include two mega deals- one with a healthcare client and another in BFSI.

"While a significant portion of these two deals are renewals, they are important for deepening our presence and unlocking future growth in these accounts. We are seeing strong momentum in Europe," he added.

The company also announced Wipro Intelligence, its unified suite of AI-powered platforms, solutions, and transformative offerings. "Wipro Intelligence brings together advanced capabilities across both delivery and industry platforms. Our delivery platforms are already accelerating work, from software development, infrastructure and cloud, to business process operations. On the industry side, we've reimagined core business processes and developed more than 200 AI agents and platforms, spanning multiple sectors," he further said.

Aparna Iyer, Chief Financial Officer, Wipro said, "We are gradually returning to growth trajectory with three of our four SMUs growing sequentially in Q2. All key financial parameters continue to remain strong. Our large deal bookings in the first two quarters have now surpassed the large deal booking for full year FY25."

The company has hired 2,900 freshers in Q2. "We will continue to hire based on demand and look at campuses," Saurabh Govil, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), Wipro, said. On the wage hike, he said, "Macroeconomic remains to be uncertain and we have not taken a call yet."

The company's total employee headcount also rose by 2,260 in Q2.

(from left) Wipro CEO & MD Srini Pallia, CFO Aparna Iyer and CHRO Saurabh Govil.

Venu Lambu

LTIMindtree Q2 net profit up 12%

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services firm LTIMindtree on Thursday posted a 12% increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,401 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal, compared to Rs 1,251 crore in the same quarter last year.

Its revenue from operations in the second quarter stood at Rs 10,394.3 crore, a 10% increase compared to Rs 9,433 crore in the year-ago period. The company has declared an interim dividend of Rs 22 per equity share.

Mindtree
A Larsen & Toubro Group Company

"Q2FY26 has been a strong quarter for us, marked by broad-based performance across our business. We delivered our second consecutive quarter of growth with margin improvement ahead of plan. We are committed to becoming an AI-centric organisation, leveraging our BlueVerse ecosystem," said Venu Lambu, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, LTIMindtree.

"Our strategy remains on course, and our results reflect disciplined execution, the depth of our client relationships, and solid progress in our ongoing transformation," he added.

The company's EBIT margin expanded by 160 bps quarter-on-quarter to 15.9% in Q2 and its rupee revenue crossed Rs 10,000 crore for the quarter. The company's total employee strength stood at 86,447 as of September 30, 2025. It added 2,558 employees in Q2. The company's trailing 12-month attrition was 14.2% in the second quarter.

LTIMindtree reported a 3.6% increase in revenue in North America, 7.1% year-on-year (YoY) increase in Europe and 9.3% in Rest of the World.

Its revenue from Banking, Financial Services and Revenue was up 6.5% YoY in Q2.

Zepto raises $450 million at $7 bn valuation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Zepto, one of India's fastest-growing consumer internet companies, on Thursday announced the successful closure of approximately $450 million in funding, comprising a mix of primary and secondary transactions, with a majority in primary.

Aadit Palicha, CEO & Co-founder at Zepto, said, "This financing is a reflection of our team's execution to grow the business rapidly while consistently building operating leverage. We now have approximately $900 million of net cash in the bank and more than well-capitalised for the future."

NPCI says most glitches with same-day cheque clearance resolved

BENGALURU, DHNS

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which has been managing the image-based cheque clearance system to ensure the same-day clearance of cheques, has said most of the issues faced by the banks in clearing cheques on the same-day have now been resolved. The central system has been stable since Monday and it is working with banks to address any remaining issues, to ensure same-day credit for the presented cheques.

As per RBI's directions, the cheque clearing system has transitioned from batch processing (t+1) to continuous clearing system (t+0) to enable faster cheque clearance. This change was implemented on October 4, 2025.

Post implementation, a total of 1.49 crore instruments, amounting to Rs. 8,49,557 crore, have been processed and cleared through the central system.

"During these initial days, we have encountered some teething issues both at the central system operated by NPCI and at the participating banks, resulting in delays in clearing and in crediting customers' accounts, and a large number of returns. Most of these issues have now been resolved, and the central system has been stable since Monday, October 13, 2025," NPCI said in a statement.

Many banks, especially public sector banks including State Bank of India faced several issues including software issues in seamlessly implementing the same-day cheque clearance system since the new system was introduced from October 4, 2025.

According to banking industry sources, banks were not equipped well to handle a large number of transactions on the same day and lack of adequate training for their staff contributed to the teething troubles and banks had to work for extended hours thereby impacting the customer service.

The sources said that the new system was implemented without any proper readiness by the banks and hence led to problems for customers ahead of the festival season. Customers were worried because the debited accounts did not reflect corresponding credits.

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IN BRIEF

DYES 'A' beat SAI 2-1

▸ Shivakumarayya Pujar's two late goals in the fourth quarter helped Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports 'A' (DYES 'A') to beat Sports Authority of India STC 2-1 on Day 4 (Thursday) of the Hockey Karnataka League Championship at the FMKMC Hockey Arena in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES 'A': 2 (Shivakumarayya V Pujar 54th, 59th) bt SAI STC: 1 (Pavan DR 9th); South Western Railway, Hubballi: 3 (Pavan Madivalar 10th, Chethan MK 23rd, Shamanth CS 34th) bt DYES 'B': 2 (Pranam Gowda YM 24th, Harsha HR 47th).

Real Kashmir out of Super Cup

▸ I-League team Real Kashmir FC have withdrawn from the upcoming Super Cup due to a delay in procuring visas for their foreign players, the club said on Thursday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The Snow Leopards have been replaced by Dempo FC for the tournament that is scheduled to begin in Goa from October 25.

KIUG from Nov 24

▸ The fifth Khelo India University Games will be held in seven cities of Rajasthan from November 24 to December 5, with beach volleyball, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling and kho-kho included in the KIUG programme for the first time, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Competition will be held in 23 medal sports and one demonstration sport (kho-kho). Like the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar earlier this year.

The University Games too will be spread across seven cities in Rajasthan – Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur. More than 5,000 athletes are expected in the 12-day University meet.

World Cup sees new heights

▸ The Women's World Cup has achieved record viewing figures with 60 million fans having already tuned in to watch the first 13 one-day matches, as per the International Cricket Council (ICC), reports PTI from New Delhi.

Visa delay for Manika

▸ Star India table tennis player Manika Batra on Thursday said that she and her three team-mates are yet to get any update on their UK visa application to participate in the WTT Star Contender tournament in London starting October 20, reports PTI from New Delhi

Magnetic for feature

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Magnetic, from the stables of Darius Byramji and to be ridden by Trevor Patel, is fancied to win the Governor's Cup, the feature event of the Mysuru races to be run over a mile and a quarter at the races on Friday.

1. Lalithamahal Plate - 1100M: Immortal Beauty 1, Striking Eyes 2, Bourbon Bay 3.
2. BVL - Ladies Circle India Cup - 1200M: Pearl Of Mysore 1, Alluring Beauty 2, Jaanat 3.
3. Alekona Trophy - 1600M: Star Studded 1, Star Symphony 2, Striking Viking 3.
4. K Thammanna Gowda Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Drisana 1, Creative Girl 2, Natural Warrior 3.
5. Governor's Cup - 2000M: Magnetic 1, Sea The Sun 2, Saigon 3.
6. AR Subramanya Raj Urs Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Winter Agenda 1, Gold Kite 2, Serrano 3.
7. BVL - Round Table India Cup - 1400M: El Alamien 1, Chinky Pinky 2, Gimme 3.
Day's best: Immortal Beauty. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: Sri Lanka vs South Africa **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

GOLF

DP World India Championship: Round 2 **(6:35 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

All-round Shreyas keeps Karnataka on an even keel

Spinner claims three after his 56 as Saurashtra lose initiative

BENGALURU, DHNS

If the opening day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture against Saurashtra was all about rescue acts after each bump along the way for Karnataka, the second one turned out to be a day of hope and promise from their spinners.

Karnataka, on the back of stretching their total to 372 all out in 117.3 overs from 325/9 with some late resurgence from the final two, proceeded to spin a web around Saurashtra and reduce them to 200/4 at Stumps, still trailing by 172 runs.

While Dharmendrasinh Jadeja's exceptional seven-for (7/114) was the highlight for the hosts in the first innings, the advantage was driven home by Shreyas Gopal, who earlier in the day had brought up a well-made half-century, with his third session three-for (3/51).

The day's second session was when Karnataka began to drop their shoulders with Saurashtra running away with the momentum after managing to see off the new ball and settle in. As the officials called Tea, they were 137 for no loss in 38 overs with Chirag Jani and Harvik Desai unbeaten and untroubled.

But as it turned out, the visitors came into their own, reaping rewards for disciplined spin bowling with Shreyas, playing the starring role.

He was well supported with some diligent bowling from Mohsin Khan (1/38) and Shikhar Shetty (0/58) who combined to bowl 29 overs, giving away 96 runs. Mohsin also picked up a timely wicket of Desai (43), trapping him in front to give Karnataka their first breakthrough.

Shreyas, then, came into the groove and dismissed the well-set Jani (90) and Jay Gohil (3) to give the visitors some momentum.

With Jani, Desai and Jay Gohil all dismissed, the onus was on Ansh Gosai to guide the innings forward with Arpit Vasavada, who refused to get bogged down against some quality spin.

The partnership was promising but lasted only 33 balls as the former, deciding to ease some pressure, piled some more after giving Shreyas his third for the session and Karnataka their fourth.

Earlier, half-centurion Smaran (77) managed to add just 11 to his overnight score. Gopal (56) also reached his fifty but was soon sent back by Jaydev Unadkat.

The hosts continued to make further inroads into the lower-order as M Venkatesh (0) was out on the first ball. Shikhar (41) and Abhilash Shetty (1), who are known for their bowling, put their hands up and stitched a 98-ball 47-run partnership and added much-needed runs for Karnataka at the backend while frustrating Saurashtra.

Shreyas Gopal (left) picked up three crucial wickets while Mohsin Khan bagged one on the second day for Karnataka to keep them in the game against Saurashtra in Rajkot. DH FILE PHOTOS

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings; O/n: 295/5): SJ Nikin Jose c Gosai b Jadeja 12, Mayank Agarwal c Sakariya b Jadeja 2, Devdutt Padikkal b Jadeja 96, Karun Nair lbw Jadeja 73, Smaran R (batting) 77 c Gosai b Jadeja, Shrijith KL c Desai b Dodiya 5, Shreyas Gopal c Gosai b Unadkat 56, M Venkatesh c Gosai b Jadeja 0, Shikhar Shetty c Unadkat b Gajjar 41, Mohsin Khan c Gosai b Jadeja 1, Abhilash Shetty (not out) 2. Extras (B-5, LB-1, NB-1) 7. **TOTAL (all out, 117.3 overs) 295.**

Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Agarwal), 2-26 (Jose), 3-172 (Nair), 4-195 (Padikkal), 5-214 (Shrijith), 6-324 (Smaran), 7-324 (Venkatesh), 8-324 (Gopal), 9-325 (Mohsin)

Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 20-3-55-1, Chetan Sakariya 13-3-29-0, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 42-9-124-7, Chirag Jani 3-1-5-0, Prerak Mankad 3-1-14-0, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 23-3-90-1, Sammar Gajjar 11.3-0-49-1.

SAURASHTRA (I Innings): Harvik Desai lbw Mohsin 41, Chirag Jani b Gopal 90, Jay Gohil c & b Gopal 3, Arpit Vasavada (batting) 12, Ansh Gosai c Smaran b Gopal 19, Prerak Mankad (batting) 20. Extras (B-8, LB-2, pen 5) 15. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 60 overs) 200.**

Fall of wickets: 1-140 (Desai), 2-148 (Jani), 3-151 (Gohil), 4-171 (Gosai).

Bowling: Abhilash Shetty 7-3-14-0, M Venkatesh 7-2-24-0, Shikhar Shetty 15-2-58-0, Shreyas Gopal 17-2-51-3, Mohsin Khan 14-0-38-1.

Other Group B: Brief scores: At Thiruvananthapuram: Maharashtra: (O/n: 179/7) 239 all out in 84.1 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 91, Jalaj Saxena 49, Vicky Ostwal 38, Ramakrishna Ghosh 31; MD Nidheesh 5-49; Nedumankuzhy Basil 3-57) vs Kerala: 35/3 in 10.4 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 27; Rajneesh Gurbani 2-20).

At Porvorim: Goa: (O/n: 291/3): 566 all out in 160.4 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 47, Abhinav Tejrana 205, Lalit Yadav 213, Darshan Misal 32; Vishu 7-173, Nishunk Birla 3-137) vs Chandigarh 34/1 in 18 overs.

At Indore: Punjab: 232 all out vs Madhya Pradesh: (O/n: 6/0): 305/6 in 93 overs (Himanshu Mantri 40, Shubham Sharma 41, Rajat Patidar 107, Venkatesh Iyer 73; Naman Dhir 3-72, Prerit Dutta 3-55).

Women's WC: Australia storm into semifinals

Healy leads from front as Bangla crash to 10-wkt loss

VISHAKHAPATNAM, PTI

Skipper Alyssa Healy continued her golden run smashing her way to a second consecutive ton as Australia cantered home by 10 wickets to become the first team to qualify for the semi-final of the Women's World Cup here on Thursday.

Asked to bowl, a disciplined Australia first restricted Bangladesh to a modest 198 for 9, and then rode on Healy (113 not out off 77 balls) and Phoebe Litchfield's (84 off 72 balls) aggressive knocks to chase down the target with consummate ease in 24.5 overs. Healy, who was struggling for runs, made a great return, scoring a stunning 142 in a record chase of 331-- highest in the history of the Women's World Cup.

It turned out to be a cakewalk for Australia as the seven-time champions showed their class while chasing down the paltry total with Healy and Litchfield coming out all guns blazing against the hapless Bangladesh attack.

Healy played her shots to all parts of the ground from the word go while Litchfield tried to match her stroke for stroke with her attacking intent as Bangladesh bowlers had no answers to their brutal assault. A rejuvenated Healy decorated her unbeaten innings with as many as 20 boundaries, while Litchfield struck 12 fours and one maximum during her knock.

Litchfield drew curtains to the chase in style, hitting Fariha Trisna for two consecutive boundaries to complete the formalities inside 25 overs. Bangladesh's spin attack, considered as their main weapon, had no answers to Healy and Litchfield's attacking batting.

Haider's scratchy innings came to an end when she tried to slog sweep Gardner over mid-on but didn't get the desired elevation, holing out to Tahlia McGrath at mid-on

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 198/9 in 50 overs (Rubya Haider 44, Sobhana Mostary 66 n.o.; Ashleigh Gardner 2-48, Annabel Sutherland 2-41, Alana King 2-18, Georgia Wareham 2-22) lt to Australia: 202/0 in 24.5 overs (Alyssa Healy 113 n.o., Phoebe Litchfield 84 n.o.)
PoM: Alana King.
Today's match: Sri Lanka vs South Africa.

Australia's Phoebe Litchfield (left) and Alyssa Healy had an unbeaten stand of 202 runs in their 10-wicket win over Bangladesh in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. ICC

Indians sweat it out in Perth

PERTH, PTI

Senior stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hit the ground running soon after their arrival here and spent a considerable time in the nets during the Indian team's first training session ahead of the ODI series against Australia beginning here on Sunday.

All eyes are on Rohit and Kohli, who last played for India in the Champions Trophy in February-March, and are available only in the 50-over format.

Both the former India captains batted for close to 30 minutes in the nets. The Indian team arrived here in two batches over Wednesday and Thursday for the white-ball tour comprising three ODIs and five T20s, starting October 29.

Rohit was also seen having a long chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir after his time in the nets. Both Kohli and Rohit retired from Tests earlier this year and had called time on their India T20 career after winning the World Cup in Barbados last year. It could well be the last time that the two ODI greats play Down Under.

Their participation in the 2027 World Cup is also not a given with a lot depending on their form and fitness at the time. However, new captain Shubman Gill has backed the two superstars given their wealth of experience.

Post the net session, Kohli was seen having a chat with bowling coach Morne Morkel which was followed by a light moment with pacer Arshdeep Singh. The team also has a training session lined up on Friday and Saturday.

Virat Kohli. X/BCCI

KL Rahul. X/BCCI

'Challenging for Ro-Ko'

Former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson reckons it would be challenging for Kohli and Rohit to extend their exemplary run in ODI cricket now that they play only one format.

"For Virat and Rohit, it's going to be a challenge playing just one format of international cricket. Getting their skills sharp again to face the best bowlers will take some adjustment. But you can never rule out champions and Virat and Rohit are exactly that. It may take a bit of time for them to find the right preparation, but once they do, they'll be ready to go when they take on Australia," Watson told 'Jio Star'.

"It might take a little time to find the right preparation rhythm to face the best bowlers in the world. But these two are as good as one-day batters get. It won't take them long to find the right formula and get back to their best."

ITF to become World Tennis from next year

PARIS, AFP: The International Tennis Federation, one of the sport's global governing bodies, on Thursday announced that it would change its name next year to World Tennis.

Initially formed in Paris in 1913 as the International Lawn Tennis Federation, it changed its name to the shorter ITF in 1977.

"The name change is designed to better reflect the organisation's role as the sport's global governing body and guardian," the ITF said in a statement.

The move follows similar ones in others sports where the governing bodies changed their names, such as World Athletics and World Aquatics.

The ITF is in charge of organising the Olympic tennis tournament, the Davis Cup and the Billie Jean King Cup.

It is one of seven governing bodies in international tennis, alongside the ATP, which runs the men's circuit, the WTA, which does likewise for women's tournaments, and the organisers of the four Grand Slams: Wimbledon, Roland Garros, the US Open and the Australian Open.

Ronaldo pocketed $150m more than Messi in 2025-26: Forbes

PARIS, AFP: Portugal great Cristiano Ronaldo once again topped the Forbes highest-paid footballers list for the 2025-26 season, as one of three members of the top 10 plying their trade in Saudi Arabia.

It is the sixth time in the last decade that Ronaldo has topped the Forbes list and comes just over a week after Bloomberg announced that the 40-year-old forward had become football's first billionaire.

With on and off-field earnings of an estimated $280 million, Al Nassr's Ronaldo will earn more than double that of second-placed rival Lionel Messi, whose $130 million estimate is made up of more off-field earnings than those from playing for his American club Inter Miami.

Next up is French former Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who earns $104 million a year thanks to his huge contract at Saudis Al Ittihad.

The third member of the top 10 playing in Saudi Arabia is Senegalese forward Sadio Mane, a teammate of Ronaldo's who earns an estimated $54 million in eighth.

Highest paid footballers

Cristiano Ronaldo **$280M**

Lionel Messi **$130M**	Vinicius Jr **$60M**
Karim Benzema **$104M**	Mo Salah **$55M**
Kylian Mbappe **$95M**	Sadio Mane **$50M**
Erling Haaland **$80M**	Jude Bellingham **$44M**
	Lamine Yamal **$43M**

The number of players from Saudi clubs in the top 10 compared to a year ago has dropped by one as Brazil's Neymar left Al Hilal in January to return to his boyhood club, Santos in Sao Paulo.

He had been third on the list with $110 million in 2024-25 but now apparently earns a paltry $38 million, mostly from off-field contracts.

Despite the power and wealth of the English Premier League -- whose clubs spent a record £2.6 billion ($3.5 billion) on transfers in the summer window -- only two players from that competition make the top 10.

Trevor-ridden Meropi wins main event

MYSURU RESULTS

Meropi, trained by Aashay Doctor and ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship, the feature event of the Mysore races on Thursday.

1. Lokapavani Plate - 1400M: She Rules (KH Vachha) Laxman Singh 1; Shock And Awe (Darshan) 2; Turkoman (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Southernaristocrat (Faiz) 4; Not Run: Exemplary Rules. Wb: 3-1/4, 1-1/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1:27.47. TB: Darius Byramji. Fav: Southernaristocrat.
2. Original Vel Racing Trophy (Div I) -1200M: Sea Of Adventure (Mrs Bipin Salvi) Sai Kiran 1; Serai (Antony Raj) 2; Sheeba (Pavan) 3; Choice (Faiz) 4; Wb: 3, 1-1/2, 1/2L. T: 1-13.84. TB: Bipin Salvi. Fav: Serai.
3. Urs Kar Trophy (Div I) - 1400M: True Punch (Anil Saraf) Antony Raj 1; Little Minister (S Imran) 2; Sir Calculus (Alex Rozario) 3; Ladylion (AR Pradeep) 4; Wb: 4, 1-3/4, 1/2L. T: 1.26.74. TB: M.R.Singh. Fav: Little Minister.
4. HH Sri Chamaraja Wadiyar Memorial Cup - 1400M: Isabelle (PT Girish) Pavan 1; Polar Wind (Faiz) 2; My Life My Rules (Imran Chisty) 3; Planet Super (K Rajesh) 4; Not Run: Phoenix Gold, Sienna Princess & She's So Beautiful. Wb: Hd, 1, 1L. 1:27.71. TB: Vinesh Naik. Fav: Isabelle.
5. Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship - 1200M: Meropi (Mrs Menaka Gupta) Trevor Patel 1; Imperial Blue (Arvind Kumar) 2; Pure For Sure (Imran Chisty) 3; Aldgate (Antony Raj) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 1L, Shd. T: 1:1.11.72. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Meropi.
6. Original Vel Racing Trophy (Div I) - 1200M: Natural Tornado (Raja Malhotra) Ankit Pal 1; Court Jester (Faiz) 2; Aurele (Abhishek Mhatrel) 3; Kenna (Salman Khan) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1/2, 1-1/2L. T: 1:12.95. TB: Mansoor Khan. Fav: O Manchali.
7. Urs Kar Trophy (Div II) - 1400M: Silicon Star (Dinesh Kumar) Antony Raj 1; Mind Games (Pavan) 2; Mystikos (Trevor Patel) 3; Sherpa (Anil Baandal) 4; Wb: 5-1/4, 3/4, 5-1/4L. T: 1-24.34. TB: Lokanath. Fav: Mystikos.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 28w; 12, 17, 14p; Fc: Rs 203; Q: Rs 134; Shp: Rs 46; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 329 & 108; Ex: Rs 626 & 228.
II race: Rs 27w; Rs 11, 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 14; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 136 & 43; Ex: Rs 233 & 88.
III race: Rs 17w; 10, 13, 19p; Fc: Rs 26; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 163 & 90; Ex: Rs 370 & 129.
IV race: Rs 24w; 11, 11, 10p; Fc: Rs 139; Q: Rs 103; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 97 & 58: Ex: Rs 5,533 & 7,230.
V race: Rs 12w; 11, 18p; Fc: Rs 23; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 230 & 116; Ex: Rs 165 & 37.
VI race: Rs71w; 16, 15, 33p; Fc: Rs 331; Q: Rs 142; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 1,036 & 803; Ex: Rs 7,446 & 2,393.
VII race: Rs 25w; 10, 33, 11p; Fc: Rs 929; Q: Rs 562; Shp: Rs 116; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 813 & 163; Ex: Rs 12,458 & 4,271.
Jackpot: Rs 4,041 (75). **Runner-up:** Rs 429 (303). **I treble:** Rs 246 (26). **II treble:** Rs 251 (38).

Trevor Patel

Zoravar shoots two clean rounds to rise to second

ATHENS, PTI: Indian trap shooter Zoravar Singh Sandhu **(in pic)** fired two perfect rounds of 25 each to rise to second on the men's trap shooting qualification leaderboard at the ISSF World Championship Shotgun here Thursday.

Zoravar's four-round (24,25,25,25) tally of 99, has placed him between the two Glasnovic brothers from Croatia, Anton and Josip.

Anton, the elder of the two and a former world championship silver medalist, leads the standings, having not yet missed a target while the latter, a former Olympic champion, is on the same score as Zoravar, but behind on countback.

In a top field comprising all the Paris Olympic medallists and several former Olympic and World champions, Zoravar held his own to execute two perfect rounds in his unique quick style, which has now made him favourite to make the top-six finals cut. The Indian missed one target in his first round on Wednesday and since then has had three perfect rounds to put himself in a favourable position. At one stage, the Indian troika of Zoravar, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Vivaan Kapoor, had together hit 127 targets without a miss.

Indian shuttlers sail into quarters

GUWAHATI, PTI

Rising Indian shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Unnati Hooda continued their impressive run to sail into the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships here on Thursday.

Gnana Dattu TT and mixed doubles combination of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo also upset their much higher-ranked opponents in another good day for Indian badminton at the National Centre of Excellence.

Tanvi registered a dominating 15-8, 15-5 win over China's Sun Li Yuan, while eighth seed Unnati recovered from a bad start to prevail 15-10, 15-7 over Carine Tee of Malaysia.

Lakshya stuns world No. 2 Antonsen; Satwik-Chirag win

Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned world number two and local favourite Anders Antonsen in straight games to enter the quarterfinals of the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday, reports PTI from Odense.

The world No. 21 Sen beat the Dane 21-13, 21-14 in the second round match that lasted 53 minutes. In the quarterfinals, Sen will meet the winner of the match between Weng Hong Yang of China and Alex Lanier of France.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also advanced to the quarterfinals with a 21-19 21-17 win over the Chinese Taipei pair of Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan.

In the quarterfinals, Tanvi will face Japan's Saki Matsumoto, while Unnati will take on second seed Anyapat Phichitpreechasak of Thailand.

Gnana Dattu, playing his first world juniors, defeated eighth-seed Garret Tan of USA 15-12, 15-13 in the boys' singles, while Bhavya and Vishakha fought back after losing the opening game to beat third third-seeded French combination of Thibault Gardon and Agathe Cuevas 12-15, 15-11, 15-12 to reach the quarterfinals.

Playing against an experienced opponent, Gnana Dattu showcased his racquet skills as he executed late flicks and flat pushes, particularly under pressure to outmanoeuvre Tan.

Bhavya and Vishakha will now face Chinese Taipei's Hung Bing Fu and Chou Yun An, who defeated Korea's Kim Tae Hyun and Moon In Seo 15-9, 15-11 in the other pre-quarterfinals.

ISL clubs slam AIFF for delay in tender process

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ten Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Thursday termed the delay in the tender process pertaining to the selection of a new commercial partner of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) as a "breach of trust" and demanded immediate clarity on the matter.

On August 28, during a hearing relating to AIFF's constitution which was then pending, the AIFF and ISL organisers FSDL had submitted a "consensual resolution" to the Supreme Court, with the national federation agreeing "to conduct an open, competitive and transparent tender (process) for the selection of a commercial partner" to organise the top-tier league.

In that resolution, the AIFF had also agreed to complete the process by October 15, so that new league season can thereafter commence in December. With the deadline missed, the 10 clubs -- Chennaiyin FC, Punjab FC, Hyderabad FC, Bengaluru FC, FC Goa, NorthEast United, Kerala Balsters, Odisha FC, Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC -- slammed the AIFF for its lack of accountability and transparency.

Three Kolkata clubs of Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting were not involved in the letter.

"Following the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and the subsequent joint submission made by the AIFF and FSDL, it was clearly stated that an open and transparent tender process would be initiated and completed by 15th October 2025 to appoint a new commercial partner for the league," the clubs said in a letter to the AIFF president and the executive committee.

GOLF DP WORLD INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Disciplined Lowry tames DGC

Irishman cards 8-under 64 to take one-shot lead after day 1

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A little more than two weeks ago, Shane Lowry's clutch putt gave Europe a thrilling Ryder Cup win over the USA that elevated him to superhuman status.

On Thursday, the 38-year-old Irishman's eight-under 64 on the opening day of the DP World India Championship, forced the Delhi Golf Club to bow out of respect towards the golfer.

Calling Lowry's first-round heroics impressive is reducing his resilience on the intimidating course, even if it came with preferred lies (a rule that allows a player to improve the lie of their ball without penalty). Taking up the challenge head-on, the 2019 Open Championship winner returned a card filled with eight birdies and 10 pars.

"I feel like this type of golf course suits me," said Lowry after an eventful day here.

"The 6-feet-1-inch player from Dublin was grouped with his Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald and mate Tommy Fleetwood (both scored 4-under 68). After having gone through everything they had together, Lowry credited the two Englishmen for his blemish-free round on a pleasant Thursday afternoon.

"It's because of a really nice group. We all had a great time. We could hear the horns from the road. It was not as off-putting as the Bethpage crowd," quipped Lowry.

Japan's Keita Nakajima, who doesn't shy away from expressing his love for India, shot a seven-under 65 to sit one behind Lowry at second spot.

Nakajima, the 2024 Hero Indian Open winner and runner-up at the 2025 edition of the event, was locked in from the word go and found his first birdie on the 14th hole (teed off from 10th). After a birdie on the 18th, the 25-year-old Japanese made the turn and holed four birdies in a row from the first to the fourth. Despite a bogey on the sixth, Nakajima closed it out by gaining a shot each on the 17th and the 18th.

Meanwhile the player with the largest crowd tailing him, Rory McIlroy, gave the fans something to cheer about right away. A morning tee off from the 10th, the reigning Masters Champion sank a putt from the fringe for a birdie. Two bogeys followed but the 36-year-old world No. 2 recovered well to end his day at three-under 69 to lie tied-17th.

Gangjee on a roll

Holing a monster of a putt from 60-plus feet, seasoned golfer Rahil Gangjee made a final hole eagle on the 18th for a five-under 67 to be tied-fourth and turn out as the best Indian after the first day.

Dhruv Sheoran carded four-under 68 to be tied-seventh while his more fancied countrymen Anirban Lahiri struggled but put together a two-under 70 (tied-28) even as Shubhankar Sharma fumbled to a two-over 74 (tied-99).

Scores (after 18 holes): 64: Shane Lowry (Ire); **65:** Keita Nakajima (Jpn); 66: Casey Jarvis (SA); **67:** Jorge Campilo (Esp), Jannik De Bruyn (Ger), Rahil Gangjee (Ind).

Shane Lowry tees off during his eight-under 64 on day one of the DP World India Championship at the Delhi Golf Club.

Fleetwood: The common man's hero

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The people's champion. It's a title that eludes even the best athletes despite multiple accolades. It is a crown bestowed upon those whose resume highlights winning hearts and giving hope to everybody: "If I could do it, you can too!"

Tommy Fleetwood is among those few who belong to this privileged club, where staying true to oneself trumps needless theatrics. It's this trait that has made the 34-year-old golfer, with long golden locks and an endearing smile, emerge as 'a common man's hero.'

"I've always been very lucky with the connection that I make with people and I make friends wherever I go," said Fleetwood, the world No. 5 who is here to compete at the DP World Tour India Championship.

"It's an individual sport and I'm chasing my own kind of goals and my dreams, but I feel like people are doing it with me. I always feel like they can carry me at certain times, and I'm always grateful for the love and the support that I get."

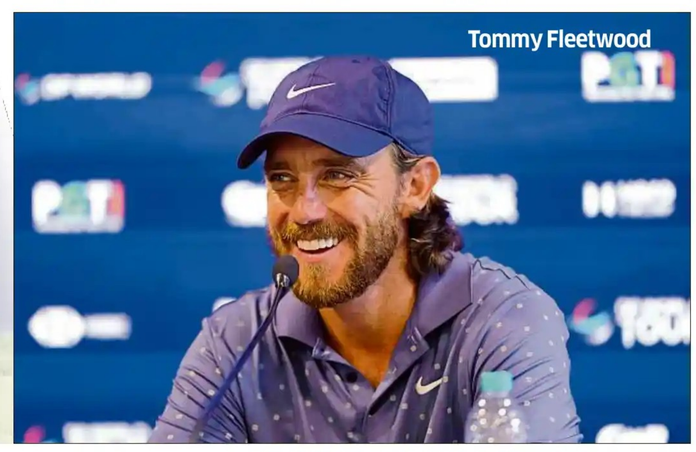
The 'certain times' Fleetwood refers to are the several near-misses in his 15-year-old professional career embellished with six runners-up and 31 top-5 finishes. For a golfer known as a complete player for his trophy-winning technique combined with the right temperament, it took Fleetwood 164 starts to win an event on the PGA Tour. And that happened this year when he became the PGA Tour FedEx Cup champion.

"Yeah, it's been a really good year. Throughout the year, especially the summer, I think I played very consistently and worked on my game really well. And then I managed to get that win on the PGA Tour.

"It seemed like a really big thing, a big story, and the Ryder Cup happened. Just being a part of that winning (European) team was something that was very special. So yeah, 2025 has been filled with a lot of good things, but there's still three more events to go. So focused on trying to make sure I finish as strong as I can," offered Fleetwood.

Similar to the attention the Southport-born golfer draws wherever he travels because of his warm and gracious persona, Fleetwood is enjoying meeting his fans in India at the Delhi Golf Club this week.

The golfer also let a few youngsters walk next to him on the course and chatted with them.



Tommy Fleetwood

Karnataka's Sinchana leaps to silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka long jumper Sinchana MS bagged a silver medal on the opening day of the Indian Open U-23 athletics competition in Hanamakonda (Telangana) on Thursday.

Sinchana leapt a 6.22 metre for a second place behind Mubassina Mohammed (6.36m), who trains at Anju Bobby Sports Foundation in Bengaluru. This was also Karnataka's second medal on the day after Shivaji Kaashuram took a bronze in the men's 10000m final early in the morning.

Poovamma picked

Karnataka's MR Poovamma and Priya Mohan were named in India's 4x400m relay squad for the upcoming South Asian Senior Athletics Championships which is to be held in Ranchi from October 24 to 26.

A total of 70 athletes (36 men and 34 women) were named in the squad, with a further three Karnataka representatives in the individual events, namely Krishik M (men's 110m hurdles), Supriya SB (women's high jump) and Karishma S (women's javelin).

Results: Men: 10000m: Rijwan (Ind) 29:48.91s, 1; Sachin Yadav (UP) 29.49.26, 2; Shivaji Kaashuram (Kar) 29:50.05, 3.
Women: Long jump: Mubassina Mohammed (Lak), 6.36m, 1; Sinchana MS (Kar) 6.22, 2; Abhirami VM (Ker) 5.98m, 3.

Sinchana MS wins the silver medal in women's long jump at the Indian Open U-23 athletics competition in Hanamakonda.

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